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Iran urges all pilgrims to demonstrate

TEHRAN (AFP) — An Iranian religious organization urged all Muslims making the pilgrimage in Mecca to defy a Saudi ban and take part in an anti-U.S. rally planned by Iranian pilgrims, the official news agency IRNA said Sunday. "We call on all pilgrims, especially politically-aware Iranians, to take part in the demonstration as in previous years to foil the plots of the enemies of Islam," the Islamic Propagation Organization said, quoted by IRNA. The Mecca gathering is the "best opportunity and Mecca the best place for Muslims to express their hatred of the infidels, notably the United States and Israel," it added. The head of the Iranian pilgrimage delegation, Mohammad Mohammadi Reyskhani, told a group of pilgrims Saturday that holding the rally was a "religious must" and urged everyone to participate on Tuesday (see page 2). The anti-U.S. and anti-Israel demonstrations are "aimed at fostering Islamic unity and enlightening the ummah (Muslims) about the dangers from non-believers," he said. Mr. Reyskhani, however, urged the pilgrims to be "disciplined and peaceful" to avoid any "unseemly incidents." Saudi authorities warned last week they would not allow Iranian pilgrims to carry out their planned demonstration.

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Northerners said poised for major assault on Aden

Combined agency dispatches

NORTHERN TROOPS loyal to Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh were reportedly closing in on the southern stronghold of Aden in a three-pronged assault on Sunday. In anticipation of assault, southern Yemeni officials have alerted to arm civilians to bolster Aden's defences as their troops battled to try to block northern forces deployed on at least four fronts. "If they (northerners) do not achieve a breakthrough in the next 48 hours they could lose this war because they have pushed in with all their forces," said a southern Yemeni colonel at a southern army checkpoint 65 kilometres north of Aden. He said arms were being handed out to residents to increase Aden's defences against the northern forces waging a 12-day-old civil war to topple rival leaders based in the city. He added: "We have given all our civilians arms and ammunition, and they are able mountain fighters who are known as the Red Wolves" during the war against British rule which ended in 1967 with the emergence of the Marxist state of South Yemen. An American oil expert in Aden said that for the past four days the army had been given civilians an AK-47 assault rifle and four ammunition clips each. On the diplomatic front, an Arab League delegation in Sanaa since Thursday has so far failed to broker a ceasefire between the rival leaders of Yemen, a country unified just four years ago. The delegation met Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani, member of the collective presidency, who said Sanaa would agree to a ceasefire only if vice-President Ali Salem Al Beidh surrendered to go on trial as a war criminal. Although the south has appealed for the Arab League to stop the fighting, northern leaders have ruled out any foreign intervention. The conservative North and formerly Marxist South Yemen united in May 1990 after drawn-out haggling, but a simmering feud between Mr. Saleh and Beidh "erupted into full-scale war on May 5."

In the latest evacuations, 500 people arrived in Djibouti by sea on Chinese and Russian vessels, including 356 Chinese workers who were to be repatriated by air on Monday. A group of 185 Egyptians flew to Cairo from Sanaa. A northern military spokesman, Colonel Ali Al Jaifi, said his Al Amaliga Brigade had broken through southern defences in the Abyan region, east of Aden. An independent source in the south confirmed that heavy artillery shelling 30 kilometres from Aden blocked the road to the eastern town of Zinjibar. However, the south had mobilised its navy and air force to help repel the assault, while Col. Jaifi said his brigade had advanced to just 20 kilometres from the power base of Mr. Beidh. An artillery battle also raged on the northern front. Mr. Saleh's troops pushed forward three kilometres toward the key southern military base of Al Anad, an officer at the base acknowledged. He said the northern forces were about 30 kilometres short of the base. "Our army is fighting a defensive war. The northern army has taken the initiative in the conflict and is advancing on several fronts, but they haven't made a decisive breakthrough," he said. Al Anad, stretching over several square kilometres, serves as "the (southern) joint command centre for all the military fronts," said the officer. Some 20,000 southern troops are based in the camp, he said. Al Anad is also a major air force base. Outside the mountain base, 60 kilometres from the city, the south has deployed anti-aircraft defence, multi-missile launchers, and Russian-made tanks and troops carriers. With the net closing on the port city, fighting was also under way on the third front at Kharaz, near the Bah Al Mandeb, a gateway to the Red Sea, as northern troops tried to approach Aden from the coast. But in Aden itself, although cut off from the world apart from by sea, the situation was still calm, a correspondent said. The city is sheltering refugees from the fronts.

King Hussein and Queen Noor on Sunday receive Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew and his wife (Petra photo)



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor on Sunday receive Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew and his wife (Petra photo)

King and Queen meet Lee

AMMAN (Petra) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor on Sunday received at Al Nadwa Palace visiting Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, his wife and an accompanying delegation. King Hussein and Mr. Lee exchanged views on various regional and international issues as well as bilateral relations and means of enhancing them, particularly in economic fields. The banquet was attended by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein and Princess Rania, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's Political Adviser Marwan Al Qassem and the wives of Jordanian officials attending the meeting.

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PLO needs more time to review bank licensing and dinar dealings

AMMAN (Petra) — The Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Economic Committee ended its meetings in Amman Sunday leaving some issues unresolved, according to Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Information Minister Jawad Al Anani, who headed the Jordanian side to the talks. "We have agreed on numerous basic points related to cooperation in a number of fields, but two points remain 'suspended' because the Palestinian side felt that it is in need of more time to study them thoroughly and perhaps they would be taken up with the Palestinian leadership," Mr. Anani said in a statement summing up the final session. The two points revolve around the method of Jordanian-Palestinian coordination in licensing new banks and their dealings in the Jordanian dinar as well as the manner in which the two sides will settle payments for exchanged goods, Dr. Anani said. Dr. Anani said the meetings, which started here Tuesday, were characterised by frankness and the two sides delved deep into the substance and to appropriate mechanism for the implementation of the

Jordanian-Palestinian economic accord signed last January. "Once we have reached an accord on these two outstanding points, we would have covered issues that assume prime priority for the two sides," added Dr. Anani. "We have agreed that after settling issues related to trade, customs, tariffs, transit, tourism, monetary and banking procedures and the settlement of payments, we would move to the next step, which entails discussion in agriculture, industry, transport and contracting," Dr. Anani said. "Voicing the Palestinian appreciation of the Palestinian side to the talks, Dr. Anani said that the Palestinians 'displayed genuine desire to arrive at U.N. overall formula for cooperation in area that would safeguard the interests of the two peoples.' Ahmad Qouriea, who led the Palestinian side to the meetings, described the talks as brotherly and serious, 'dealing with issues of mutual concern and in a manner that would render support to the work of the Palestinian autonomy rule.' "We have agreed that trade between Palestine and Jordan

be conducted freely and exempted from all forms of duty and taxes," said Dr. Qouriea, head of the Economic Department of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). "In matters related to banking and monetary dealings we have agreed on issuing licences to all Jordanian banks operating in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and that the Jordanian dinar remain the main currency and not as one of the different currencies," he added. "We also agreed that the Jordanian dinar will remain the only currency for official transactions and means for settling Palestinian dues," he said. Dr. Qouriea said the two sides agreed to form sub-committees to handle such issues as trade, monetary affairs, banking and tourism matters and expressed hope that these will start meetings as soon as possible. Dr. Qouriea admitted that "certain outstanding points remain unresolved and require clarification from the Palestinian leadership which would deal with them in the next two days after which we would return to Amman to resume the talks."

Only Gaza City centre still occupied by Israeli army

GAZA CITY, occupied Gaza Strip (Agencies) — Israeli forces had completed their withdrawal from all but the centre of Gaza City by Sunday as part of their redeployment for Palestinian autonomy, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials said. And that was expected to be completed by midnight Tuesday. The Israelis held just one square kilometre in the Rimal quarter which houses the military administration, a jail, the governor's headquarters, police station, police barracks, a military camp and a document office. "There are just these seven places left to evacuate and I think they will have fully completed their withdrawal by Tuesday at midnight," a senior PLO official said. "On Wednesday morning there will not be any Israelis in the town." The withdrawal will doubtless take place in the night because they want to avoid

trouble. All the other positions have been evacuated since Monday night, leaving the new Palestinian police force in charge of all but the Jewish settlements on the strip. An army spokesman said 1,324 members of the force had entered the strip from Egypt and 300 more from Jordan since Tuesday night. Another 426 Palestinian policemen have arrived in Jericho to maintain order, their commander General Hajj Ismail said. A total of 7,000 police are due to enter the autonomous enclaves and join 2,000 locally-recruited officers in the new force. After 27 years of occupation the army is redeploying around the 20 Gaza settlements to protect the 4,000 settlers during the five-year interim period of autonomy. The soldiers who remained on guard in the city appeared tense and nervous. After being fired on Saturday night at the governor's headquarters, soldiers reported widely shooting in every direction. A Palestinian sitting place in a nearby street was shot dead. And on Sunday, Israeli soldiers ejected two Palestinian policemen from the area around the old Israeli prison in the city centre where they were visiting relatives. The soldiers checked the policemen's guns were not loaded and told them, "You have no right to be here, leave immediately." More Israeli jeeps turned up to check no other police were in the sector. Four Gazans were wounded in a shoot-out between Israeli troops and Palestinians. The army said only two Palestinians aboard a truck from which the attack came were lightly wounded. However, according to doctors at Khan Yunis hospital,

day night at the governor's headquarters, soldiers reported widely shooting in every direction. A Palestinian sitting place in a nearby street was shot dead. And on Sunday, Israeli soldiers ejected two Palestinian policemen from the area around the old Israeli prison in the city centre where they were visiting relatives. The soldiers checked the policemen's guns were not loaded and told them, "You have no right to be here, leave immediately." More Israeli jeeps turned up to check no other police were in the sector. Four Gazans were wounded in a shoot-out between Israeli troops and Palestinians. The army said only two Palestinians aboard a truck from which the attack came were lightly wounded. However, according to doctors at Khan Yunis hospital,

Christopher presents Israeli response to Syrian demands

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher went straight into talks with President Hafez Al Assad here Sunday at the start of his second peace shuttle in as many weeks between arch-enemies Syria and Israel. The secretary was to deliver Israel's response to Mr. Assad's counter-proposals, following an initial Israeli offer of a phased withdrawal from the strategic Golan Heights. The Syrian president had asked for clarifications. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has offered to return three of five Druze villages on the Heights as a first stage in a three-step withdrawal over five to eight years from the plateau which Israel seized in 1967. Damascus Radio said Mr. Christopher would find in Syria a readiness to "negotiate seriously on ideas and proposals" which could lead to a settlement, in contrast to Israel which was "squandering peace opportunities." Syria is willing to discuss an Israeli withdrawal from the Heights on condition Israel pledges a complete pullout within an "acceptable and reasonable" timeframe, the

government daily Tishrin said. A Tishrin commentary headlined "Will Israel take the adequate decision?" said the lay lay in Israel's court "and those who give it support," in reference to the United States. A senior Israeli official said Mr. Christopher would try to persuade Syria to set up a joint military commission with Israel to "draft security arrangements" for the Heights. But the proposal was likely to be flatly rejected in Damascus, where an official said only last week that Israel should complete a total pullout from the Heights before security arrangements could be discussed. Syria has insisted it would not surrender a single inch of the plateau which commands access to Damascus as well as northern Israel, but it has not refused to discuss ways of finding a settlement. Diplomats here and in Beirut said that the exchange of messages between Syria and Israel was a step in the right direction, although both sides were far from a breakthrough. A Western diplomat in Damascus said the counter-proposals submitted to Israel by Syria "included some very

specific questions which opened the way for a concrete and serious debate." Mr. Christopher intended flying to Israel on Monday evening to carry Mr. Assad's latest thoughts to Mr. Rabin and might return to Damascus later in the week. But he has been at pains to play down expectations of a breakthrough on this trip, saying the road to Israeli-Syrian peace would be long and hard. Mr. Rabin has yet to commit himself to full withdrawal, though most commentators believe he has accepted that necessity if he wants to make peace with Syria. Before he speaks of the extent of Israeli withdrawal, Mr. Rabin wants Syria to promise to establish full diplomatic relations with the Jewish state, including trade, tourism and cultural exchanges. Mr. Christopher explored these issues in his last visit to the region less than two weeks ago and said the negotiations were entering a new, substantive phase. But few details of the talks emerged and Mr. Christopher

Jordan, Syria sign minutes

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian and Syrian governments Sunday signed the minutes of meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Economic Committee which concluded in Amman earlier in the day. The documents were signed on the Jordanian side by Industry and Trade Minister Rima Khalaf and on the Syrian side by Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Mohammad Al Inadi (see page 3). Ms. Khalaf told reporters following the signing ceremony that the agreement between the two countries is considered the first step towards tackling the imbalance in trade between the two countries. Ms. Khalaf stressed that the committee's meetings dealt with some problems impeding the flow of Jordanian commodities to the Syrian market. The two countries, she said, have agreed to the need of revising lists of exchanged commodities. "We tackled at the committee's meetings issues relating to transport... and banking arrangements," said Ms. Khalaf adding that the two sides have agreed to set up experts committee to prepare a future work plan for Jordanian-Syrian economic cooperation. This plan will be later endorsed by the joint ministerial economic committee, she said.

House amends law on investment corporation

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament met on Sunday under the chairmanship Speaker Taher Al Masri and in the presence of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Cabinet members. At the outset of the meeting, the House referred to its law committee the 1982 tenants and landlords draft law returned to it by the Upper House of Parliament (Senate) after introducing several amendments to it. The House approved an amendment to the Jordanian Investment Corporation law after a thorough debate, with the main focus on the law's eighth article regarding the classification of the corporation's employees. The second paragraph of the article, which stipulates that the employees of the Pension Fund be moved to the corporation and be included in the civil service system once the law is enacted, was the main point of controversy. Some deputies demanded that the paragraph be kept as it is until the government prepares a special system for the corporation, stressing that the corporation deals with large

amounts of money belonging to retired civil servants and that it should be given incentives to attract proficient personnel. Others accused the government of using double standards in dealing with corporations when giving some large incentives under special regulations. They claimed that civil servants will remain the less fortunate and demanded that the special laws and systems be substituted by a general system of incentives for all employees of the government and its corporations. Dr. Majali replied to the deputies by saying that the paragraph was enacted and the issue was over when the corporation's employees were moved to the corporation and included in the civil service system. The House also decided to return to the government a law on the Jordanian Exports Guarantee Corporation since many deputies expressed their belief that there was no need to establish such a corporation and urged the government to refrain from vying from the private sector in its projects.

Bosnia fighting bodes ill for peace efforts

SARAJEVO (R) — Reports of skirmishes in northern Bosnia threw a shadow on Sunday over a new international drive to end 25 months of carnage in the former Yugoslav republic. Bosnian government army sources said their Muslim-led troops, normally outgunned by their Bosnian Serb foes, pushed Serb forces back in three separate attacks near Tuzla this week. A military source in the northeastern Muslim stronghold told Reuters the government army had damaged a Serb-held television tower on a ridge overlooking Tuzla. "We surrounded a television tower and partly destroyed it," said the Bosnian army source, who asked not to be named. "That is why you couldn't see Serb TV here for the last two days." The tower stands on a hilltop 20 kilometres east of Tuzla, Bosnia's second largest city in government hands and crammed with refugees. The mainly Muslim inhabitants regularly used to watch a Serbian channel. Government army sources said they also gained ground in the Kladanj area, some 50 kilometres to the south. U.N. peacekeeping troops in Sarajevo could only confirm one Muslim gain, saying the army appeared to have wrested back 10 square kilometres of territory from the Serbs at Vjenac, a hilltop near Tuzla where the Serbs had artillery. Bosnian Serbs reported a flare-up across the north of the republic, a discouraging sign for a new international peace

effort begun on Friday. Clashes suggested the fighters may not yet be in a mood to make peace and could mean an uphill struggle for mediators. Muslims and Serbs have already criticised Friday's call from Western and Russian negotiators for a four-month truce, the Muslims saying it is too long and the Serbs too short. Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic said on Saturday his government would insist on a truce of only two months, while the Bosnian Serbs said they favoured an indefinite ceasefire. The two sides are far apart on this key issue because the Serbs now control more than two thirds of Bosnia and the Muslims fear an open-ended truce would lock in Serb gains. Foreign ministers from the United States, Russia and the European Union, adopting a joint strategy for the first time, endorsed a plan giving 49 per cent of Bosnia to the Serbs and the rest to a Muslim-Croat federation. Their call for negotiations to start within two weeks had not brought any public response on Sunday from political leaders of the Bosnian factions. Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic has criticised the peace plan presented in Geneva for lacking mechanisms to force the Serbs to negotiate in good faith and relinquish territory. "We are looking for guarantees. We are looking for commitment from the international community," he said.

6 more die in S. Africa amid 'mounting tension'

JOHANNESBURG (R) — At least six people including a soldier were killed in South African township violence over the weekend, as bloodshed marred the new post-apartheid democracy. The killings over the past 48 hours followed the massacre of 12 people on Friday in Tokoza township, east of Johannesburg, which shattered relative peace since all-race elections last month. A soldier was killed after troops moved into Tokoza on Sunday to follow up reports of unrest between supporters of the African National Congress (ANC) and its rival Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP). "The situation is very tense," said Major Christo Visser, a spokesman for the newly formed South African National Defence Force (SANDF). He said details were still sketchy but troops had cordoned off three migrant work-

ers' hostels housing Inkatha supporters after shots were fired at the two passing minibuses. "We are cordoned off the hostels and have called for reinforcements in case of further trouble," Maj. Visser said, giving no more information. Meanwhile, police said five people were killed since Friday in the volatile KwaZulu-Natal region, the Zulu heartland where 10,000 people died in a decade of factional fighting. On Saturday a 61-year-old man and his daughter were shot dead in Ndwedwe, near Durban. Another man was killed in Nongoma in the province's north, a body was found in Kwamakuthu township south of Durban and a teenager was killed in Umlazi. Police said they arrested 18 people and rescued three

Hariri ends strike but loses face

BEIRUT (R) — Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri has ended his week-long stoppage that plunged Lebanon into its worst political crisis in nearly two years, but one analyst said on Sunday the billionaire leader's image had been tarnished. "The crisis is over," the political analyst, who asked not to be named, told Reuters. "But it is yet to be seen how much it damaged Hariri. The whole thing was a political blunder and he was made to pay." "His image has been tarnished and he has lost some of his credibility." Mr. Hariri, one of the world's richest men, went on strike last Sunday when President Elias Hrawi and Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri blocked his proposal to bring in four new ministers — two heavyweight Christian politicians to calm Christian fears that their minority is being shunted aside, and two ministers to help speed the government's post-war reconstruction programme. Before being named prime

minister in October 1992, Mr. Hariri promised to sink part of his fortune into restoring the centre of Beirut, devastated by 15 years of civil war. "I want to go down in the history books as the man who resurrected Beirut," he told reporters, saying this was just a starting point for rebuilding the whole country through private enterprise. When he took over, he represented a startling break with traditional Lebanese politicians who stumbled through the civil war and then failed to rehabilitate the country when peace arrived in 1990. The analyst said that after last week's crisis, Mr. Hariri was returning to work without achieving any of his demands, which ranged from the proposed cabinet reshuffle to defining his relations with Mr. Hrawi and Mr. Berri. But sources close to Mr. Hariri, while acknowledging that the stoppage affair was a setback, said returning to work marked the start of a process designed to resolve the sticking

points. Mr. Hariri's office announced late on Saturday that he was calling a cabinet meeting for Monday — the first since he abruptly stopped work. The announcement was made immediately after he returned from an unexpected round of talks in Damascus with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad. Syria, which has 35,000 troops in Lebanon, is the country's main power broker. The dispute paralysed the government last week and caused a five-day run on the Lebanese pound. This cost the central bank at least \$200 million to defend the currency when people rushed to buy dollars as a hedge against political instability. Many feared that if Mr. Hariri's withdrawal continued for long — or if he resigned — the country would plunge into a financial crisis.

(Continued on page 5)

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Fishing dispute in Gaza too much for Palestinian police force to handle

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

DEIR AL BALAH — It took only a few days for Palestinian policemen patrolling the Gaza Strip to get their first taste of difficulties that are in store for them as they got ready to oversee Palestinian authority take over this coastal strip.

Factional strife and a lack of an indigenous authority for decades has set the stage for major security challenges for a force initially designed to relieve its people of the pains of Israeli occupation.

It was in Deir Al Balah, a Gaza town south of Gaza City and north of Rafah, that Palestinian policemen faced one of their first challenges. But a civil dispute proved to be too great a challenge for the police force and left many Gazans wondering how effective the police force would be in dealing with factional violence.

A dispute between two fisher families in Deir Al Balah evolved into an armed standoff between two traditional Gazan clans from Deir Al Balah, a clan of Deir Al Balah told the Jordan Times.

"These are traditional fishing families who have often fought about territorial fishing rights," said Ahmad Abu Youssef.

"The boys in the family pulled out their guns and the member of one clan informed the police," he said.

Five Palestinian policemen rushed to the scene of the dispute but there was no solution after a three-hour discussion with the involved parties and the police.

Unable to resolve and mediate the dispute, the police then called a local unit of the Fatah Hawks, the armed military unit of Fatah,

to help resolve the conflict. "The police stayed for another hour and then told the Fatah Hawks to please stay and deal with the family squabble," Mr. Abu Youssef, who was on hand to witness the incident, said.

The Fatah Hawks reportedly found a solution and created a demarcation line for fishing rights of the two clans that the involved parties agreed to respect.

News of the incident quickly spread through the Gaza Strip and to the West Bank. Palestinians felt the episode was "food for thought."

"This is disturbing," said Kamal Dweik of the Hebron Municipality, who was waiting for Palestinian National Security Forces to enter Jericho last week.

"We will grant them a honeymoon period in which they can get familiar with the situation but they must realise that resolving disputes will be a great portion of their task."

A Jericho shopkeeper Naef Erakat agreed. "This police force has a great burden to bear on its shoulders. One of their first task will be to introduce law and order and help create a civic society."

The shooting incident involving the death of an 11-year-old boy in Jericho on Friday was undoubtedly the most embarrassing of any that the Palestinian police force could have faced. But as some Jericho residents say, "it is also a warning to the police that they are not here on a vacation and must take their responsibilities seriously."

"This is not a game, it is state building," warned Mr. Dweik. "This police force is part of the state building process. They must know it and act accordingly."



Palestinian policemen walk around a former Israeli detention centre in Jericho which is now the headquarters of Palestinian self-rule (AFP photo)

Policemen find the land of their dreams

By Nejla Sammakia
Agence France Presse

JERICHO, occupied West Bank — Abu Kifah was born in Jordan but grew up dreaming of a homeland in Palestine that he knew only from the stories he heard from his parents and grandparents.

Now he still cannot believe that like hundreds of other Palestinian police who crossed into Jericho he has finally reached the land of his dreams.

"It was a dream. Until now we were not fully awake," he said.

"I can't really believe I am here. I heard so much about Palestine from the old people."

More than 400 men of the

new Palestinian police force crossed over from Jordan this week for the transfer to power from Israel which took place Friday.

Hundreds of Jericho residents rushed out to meet the policemen who had tears in their eyes as they were bused in.

They were cheered all the way into town by youths shouting "Allahu Akbar," and were welcomed by music bands, marches, and ululating women.

"To my parents and grandparents, it was the most beautiful place on earth, a blessed land, with rich soil and all kinds of trees," said Abu Kifah.

For years he kept the dream alive in the military camps where he was trained to fight and pursue the Palestinian struggle.

Now Abu Kifah, father of a young son, is part of a joint patrol driving with Israeli soldiers along Jericho's highways.

"I am working within a framework. I take orders from my superiors, but they (the Israelis) are still my enemy," Abu Kifah said, nodding his head toward a jeep with four Israeli soldiers parked under a tree near him.

There seemed to be little fraternisation between the two, but they had nevertheless shared soft drinks and sandwiches earlier as they rested

between patrols.

"We sent over drinks to them, and they offered us food, but we don't talk much with them."

Ibrahim Salem, born in Egypt, had never thought he would have the chance to see the land of his parents' dreams.

His most recent images of the occupied territories had been coloured by the Palestinian intifada, which broke out in the occupied territories in December 1987.

When he heard his friends' dramatic tales of the battles in the territories or watched them on television, Salem longed to be a hero or even a martyr.

"I would have liked to be killed or injured, but luck was not on my side," he said.

Red Cross asks Yemen to move Somalis to safety

SANAA (R) — Red Cross officials have asked northern Yemeni authorities to move thousands of Somali refugees from a camp where hundreds were killed in crossfire between Yemen's civil war foes.

"The population of the (Al Koud refugee) camp is at great risk of becoming indirect targets of the fighting," International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) delegate Arnold Luthold said on Sunday.

"The ICRC and the UNHCR are insisting on the evacuation of the refugees, which should be done in a proper manner to ensure their safety," Mr. Luthold said.

He was speaking a day after he and officials from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) visited Al Koud camp for refugees who have fled Somalia's civil war only to be caught up in Yemen's conflict which erupted on May 4.

The camp, which housed about 10,000 refugees, lies on the southern Yemeni coast, about 50 kilometres northeast of Aden, the stronghold of South Yemeni leaders and prime target of the north.

Refugees clustered on a sandy plain a few kilometres from the camp told a visiting Reuters correspondent on Friday that 400 to 450 of the camp people had been killed and 600 wounded after being caught up in fighting on the first day of the war.

About 3,000 people were sitting around on the plain. Others had fled to the mountains or to nearby towns.

"We called on (northern

military commanders) to do all that was necessary to evacuate civilians from the field of combat," Mr. Luthold said.

Northern forces control the area around Al Koud.

Mr. Luthold said he heard estimates of between 100 and 473 people dead and wounded. Northern army officers based near the camp told Reuters they thought 200 refugees were killed.

The Somalis said dogs were eating the bodies of the dead, still lying in the open because burial parties had been driven off by shooting from southern Yemeni warships at sea.

Mr. Luthold said the camp, which was run by the UNHCR before the war, came under fire while the delegation was there.

Meanwhile a group of southern organisations in Aden called on the Arab League to "intervene directly and quickly to end the fighting."

But in Cairo, Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdel Meguid ruled out any early Arab summit to discuss the crisis. Last week a league emergency meeting turned down an Egyptian proposal to send an Arab peacekeeping force to Yemen.

An Arab League delegation has been in Yemen since Thursday trying to broker a ceasefire.

It was also to deliver a call from Dr. Abdul Meguid for an immediate ceasefire.

Southern leaders also called on the Arab League to intervene to ensure the implementation of a reconciliation accord signed between the two sides in February in Amman.

Ride through Yemen provides brush with war

NAQIL THURAH, Yemen (R) — The clatter of an anti-aircraft gun brought our journey through spectacular Yemeni mountains to a juddering halt.

The driver slammed on the brakes and reporters scrambled out of his vehicle for cover from the hostile warplane whose arrival overhead the gunfire announced.

The party of reporters being ferried by northern forces through a mountain pass to cover the frontlines of Yemen's civil war began to feel as if they might become its latest casualty.

The warplane banked as it came in to bomb us.

There was little cover. The ack-ack gun, booming from a nearby northern post above the road, was missing its target.

As the reporters ran about aimlessly, I noted gloomily that it was Friday 13th.

To our right was the rocky side of the mountain. To the left was a ravine more than 100 metres deep.

A Defence Ministry guide crouched sensibly beside some rocks. The photographers aimed their lenses at the sky.

The plane dropped its bomb. It fell into the ravine, sending up plumes of smoke and debris.

The incident near Naqil Thurah mountain near Mukairas town was only one of several nerve-racking episodes on a nine-hour 430-kilometre journey from Sanaa in the north to northern army positions deep in southern territory near Aden.

For the past 11 days the northern forces of Ali Abdul-

lah Saleh have been fighting to topple rival southerners of Vice President Ali Salem Al Beidh, whom they accuse of trying to lead a breakaway by the larger, less populous south.

The road was punctuated by army checkpoints. Soldiers looked at our papers and asked if we had permission to go south.

In the main towns life had at least a veneer of normality. Markets were open and traffic moved, although soldiers had a substantial presence.

Northerners said Mukairas was in the hands of the southern 20th brigade. Northern troops manned all vantage points on the road south from Naqil Thurah towards the region of Zinjibar.

Only a few minutes before the air raid, our vehicle ran straight into the mountainside as it was making a sharp turn beside a gorge near the old border between the former North and South Yemens, which Mr. Saleh and Mr. Beidh united in 1990.

The vehicle, bounced back off the slope, almost teetering over a precipice and into a ravine.

Our Ministry of Defence companion had a simple, and very sobering, explanation for the air raid.

Our car — a brand new red four-wheel drive vehicle — was the same colour and type as the vehicle used by newly appointed Defence Minister Brigadier Abed Rabbo Hadi, a northerner.

We must have been mistaken for him.

"Very reassuring," remarked one of my colleagues.

Iran: Haj rally planned despite Saudi 'siege'

NICOSIA (R) — Iran said Saudi Arabia has deployed police around its pilgrimage (Haj) headquarters in the Holy City of Mecca, where Iranian pilgrims plan to hold a political rally in defiance of a Saudi ban.

"With only three days left for the annual rally against disbelievers in this Holy City, the Saudi police have deployed two companies of police forces around the headquarters of the representative of the leader of the Islamic revolution," the official Iranian news agency IRNA said late Saturday.

Iran's charge could not be confirmed. Saudi Arabia usually deploys its police in the holy cities of Mecca and Medina during the Haj, which attracts millions of Muslims every year.

Iran has also declared May 15 a day of solidarity for Bosnian Muslims but has long said that the pilgrimage, which this year reaches its climax on May 20, is an occasion for worship and not political activity.

Hojatoleslam Mohammad Mohammadi Rayshahri, Iran's top representative at the Haj, said Iranian pilgrims will hold a rally in Mecca on Tuesday denouncing what they see as Islam's enemies, despite the Saudi ban on political activity.

IRNA's report from Mecca said Saudi police "have been stationed with a water cannon and two armoured cars (outside the Iranian headquarters).

At noon today (Saturday) 10 police cars were seen patrolling in the area."

"Police loudspeakers are heard calling drivers not to park cars in the area. Two lift-trucks have been placed in the area to deter any violators. Saudi police have also taken up positions at the Al Aziz School opposite the Iranian headquarters," it added.

Two cameras installed atop two high buildings near the headquarters in the Al Azizieh area are visible to everybody," it added. "...In some cases the Saudi police have entered into the scene directly and at all points of Mecca especially in the streets ending at the Holy Ka'ba they are keeping pilgrims under strict observation even during prayers."

Saudi Arabia's Interior Minister Prince Nayef Ben Abdul Aziz reiterated on Wednesday that the kingdom would enforce a ban on all political activities by pilgrims, including rallies.

More than 400 people, mostly Iranians, were killed at the 1987 Haj when Saudi security forces clashed with an Iranian-led rally chanting slogans against the United States and Israel.

The bloodshed led to a break in relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia and a three-year Iranian boycott of the Haj.

Iran and Saudi Arabia have quarrelled this year about the number of Iranians allowed into the kingdom for the Haj, about their oil production policies and over Saudi Arabia's close ties with Iran's declared enemy, the United States.

Thousands of Kurds flee Turkey for Iraq

ZAKHO (Agencies) — Thousands of Kurds have fled repression in Turkey and crossed the mountains into northern Iraq, aid organisations said here Sunday.

Some 4,200 Turkish Kurds have crossed the border since the beginning of March, at a rate of around 20 families each day. Most of them crossed in the past four weeks, said Hannes Kempman from the German aid association HAD.

"Altogether we have counted 4,203 people so far," he told AFP.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) met Saturday in the border town of Dohuk to launch an action programme with other non-governmental organisations working in the area.

"We have decided to start supplying them with food, water, sanitation and medical care," said the head of the UNHCR operation in northern Iraq, Francesco Ardissone. They would be treated as refugees.

Mr. Ardissone said it had not been decided where they would be sheltered, but the UNHCR was going to try to find a place further from the border with Turkey.

Half are currently staying in the border towns of Zakho or Dohuk where they have been housed in public buildings or rented houses, while the rest are in Sheranesh, a village 20 kilometres northeast of Zakho.

Zinin Yonis, 30, who reached northern Iraq 15 days ago, said she left her Turkish village near Uludere "because the Turkish army bombed it several times."

She left with her five-year-old son who lost his left eye while fleeing through the

mountains. "We were fired on by a helicopter," Ms. Yonis said.

Hassan Yilmaz, 34, who came from a village close to Diyarbakir in the southeast Anatolia region of Turkey, said he had decided to flee with his wife and four children "because the Turkish army wanted us to fight against the (Kurdish Labour Party) PKK."

"Some of my friends who refused were already dead or in prison. Therefore I preferred to flee."

The worst clashes between the PKK and the Turkish security forces have been in the Kurdish-majority Anatolia area, where the PKK is fighting for an independent state.

Northern Iraq has been under Kurdish control since an autonomous region was established with the backing of the U.S.-led coalition after the 1991 Gulf war.

Interior Minister Nahit Mentesse said Sunday the PKK fronting the armed insurgency against Turkish authorities is on the point of breaking up after a series of military defeats.

Mr. Mentesse said in a statement that the PKK "has lost its options for logistical support and suffered major losses following large-scale operations by the army."

He added: "The process of dissolution of the separatist organisation has begun."

Since May 1, Mr. Mentesse said, 314 PKK militants had been arrested and 186 killed, and 48 others including senior commanders had surrendered to security forces in the Kurdish strongholds of east and southeast Turkey.

He repeated earlier government pledges that the PKK would be eliminated by the end of the year.

Egypt government denies responsibility for lawyer

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Egyptian government on Saturday denied accusations that police tortured to death a Muslim fundamentalist lawyer and said he was a "terrorist" who died of an asthma attack.

An Interior Ministry statement said police took the lawyer, Abdul Harith Madani, 32, straight to hospital after he fainted and he died of lung failure there the next day, April 27.

The Egyptian Bar Association has said Madani died on April 30 after torture in police custody and lawyers briefed on the medical report said he probably died of a blow to the head.

The association's freedoms committee dismissed the Interior Ministry statement as an attempt to dissuade lawyers from striking on Sunday. It said an official cover-up was continuing.

"All attempts to obtain an independent post mortem have failed, despite the fact that the public prosecutor's office found wounds and bruises, which suggests a criminal act," the committee said. "The prosecution is still trying to avoid opening the investigation to the association," it added.

The Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights has also said it was concerned that Madani might have died from torture after his arrest.

Lawyers say the strike was to go ahead on Sunday if the government does not name the people they say killed Madani. They also plan a march on the presidential palace on Tuesday.

released the report by the forensic doctor but on Thursday Interior Minister Hassan Al Ali promised an investigation and said there would be no cover-up.

But the six-page statement released by his ministry on Saturday made no mention of any investigation into the death. It described Madani as a "terrorist" and said he had used his position as a lawyer to convey orders from Muslim militant leaders in jail to those outside jail and abroad.

It said he had also acted as conduit for 45,000 pounds (\$13,000) and \$3,000 sent from abroad to finance the Gamaa Al Islamiyah (Islamic Group), the main Muslim militant group.

"The (security) forces caught the terrorist Abdul Harith Madani on the evening of April 26... in his office in the Pyramids. He was taken to search his house in the Tabia area in the Pyramids, where a large amount of papers and important organisational documents were found.

"While he was being taken to search his other house in the Warrak Al Arab area he had difficulty breathing and fainted."

The statement said he was taken to Manial University hospital where he was diagnosed as having had an asthma attack.

"On the afternoon of the next day, April 27, the hospital gave notice that he had died from a serious collapse of the respiratory system and failure of the functions of the lungs as a result of a severe attack of asthma."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDER

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Starcom 3/13
18:30 Bezaamir
18:41 L'Ecole Des Fats
19:00 News in French
19:15 The Weekly Sports Magazine
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 The Nanny
20:35 Jordaneseque
21:10 Equinox
22:00 News in English
22:20 Black Powder
23:10 Top Cops

PRAYER TIMES

05:04 Fajr
05:34 (Sunrise) Duha
12:32 Dhuhur
16:12 'Asr
19:30 Maghreb
20:59 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 657440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrace Church Tel. 623666

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 625256

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 654195

The Letter-By-Sale Church Tel. 654922

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures will gradually rise with wind northeasterly moderate. In Amman winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 12 / 27

Aqaba 18 / 34

Deserts 8 / 30

Jordan Valley 17 / 33

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 25 per cent, Aqaba 20 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Adnan Zaghoul 898140
Dr. Fakher Bofeisi 663412
Dr. Yousef Nasr 751144
Dr. Yousef Abdo 690916
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Nairouhi pharmacy 623672
Al Salan pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmehani pharmacy 637660
Nairouhi pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 647622

REBDE:
Dr. Mohammad Ak Khalil 273099
Alquds pharmacy (-)

ZARQA:

Dr. Hisham Hyasat 982440

Khalifeh pharmacy 983417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891226
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 636321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone
Repairs 623101
Jordan Television 771111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power

Company 63381

RJ Flight Information 06-53200

Queen Alia Int'l Airport 06-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 6442816
Akshid Maternity, J. Amn. 6424142
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shomkani 6641714
Shmehani Hospital 691226
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musader Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 66612737
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajira 7771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 7751126
Army, Marja 8916115
Queen Alia Hospital 60224050
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09983323
Zarqa National Hospital 09900500
Ibn Sina Hospital 09985732
Al-Hana Modern Hospital 09990990
IRBID:
Princess Basmal Hospital 02325555
Greit Catholic Hospital 0272225
Ibn Al-Nafies Hospital 02347100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital 03134111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

10:00 Damascus (RJ)
10:00 Jeddah (RJ)
10:30 Riyadh (RJ)
10:30 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
11:00 Beirut (RJ)
11:00 New Delhi (RJ)
12:15 Aqaba (add) (RJ)
17:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:55 Cairo (RJ)
19:00 Bangkok (RJ)
19:45 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

10:35 Cairo (MS)
11:00 Khartoum (SD)
13:25 Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)

DEPARTURES

Home News

of K... for In...

mountains. "We were by a helicopter," said.

Hassan Yilmaz came from a village in Anatolia region of Turkey. He said he had decided to cause the Turkish army to fight against the Labour Party (PKK).

"Some of my friends refused to be arrested in prison. Therefore, they had to flee."

The worst clashes between the PKK and the security forces have taken place in the area, where the PKK is fighting for an independent Kurdistan.

Northern Iraq is under Kurdish control. The autonomous region is bordered by the U.S.-led coalition 1991 Gulf war.

Interior Minister Tese said Sunday that the PKK is fighting against the Turkish army on the point of a series of attacks.

Mr. Menekse said that the PKK is fighting against the Turkish army on the point of a series of attacks.

He added: "The PKK is fighting against the Turkish army on the point of a series of attacks."

Since May 1, he said, 314 PKK fighters have been arrested and 48 others have been killed.

He repeated that the PKK is fighting against the Turkish army on the point of a series of attacks.

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Mrs. Lee Kwan Yew (second from left), her daughter Lee Wei Ling, Sunday visit wife of the Singaporean prime minister, and Noor Al Hussein Foundation

Mrs. Lee Kwan Yew visits NHF

AMMAN (J.T.) — Wife of the Singaporean prime minister, Mrs. Lee Kwan Yew, and her daughter Lee Wei Ling visited Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) Sunday morning, where they were received by Niam Mufti, adviser to Her Majesty Queen Noor for Planning, development and NHF international relations, and senior NHF staff. Mrs. Mufti briefed the visiting guests on NHF development philosophy which focuses on long-term integrated development projects that help families and communities reach self-reliance through democratic grassroots participation.

The Queen's advisor told the group that NHF projects give special attention to increasing women's involvement in economic production and decision making.

She added that as NHF seeks to raise the quality of life of families and communities throughout Jordan; it helps them engage in long-term socio-economic development schemes that provide them with training, new jobs, links with local and international markets and new opportunities for improved living.

NHF's Quality of Life Project, Women in Development Project and the Jordan Design and Trade Centre are recognised by U.N. organisations as model projects for the region.

Mrs. Lee Kwan Yew and the accompanying delegation also toured NHF's Jordan Design and Trade Centre (JDTC) where they saw exhibits of Jordanian handicrafts such as woolen rugs, embroidered home furnishings, ceramics, glassware, basketry, fashionable clothing and wrought iron furniture — all designed by the JDTC.

The NHF guests expressed admiration of the wide range of serious development endeavors that NHF is undertaking, according to an NHF spokesperson.

Adnan Talhouni, director of Queen Noor's office and Akram Qursia director general of NHF attended the meeting.

PSD issues summer bridge crossing rules

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Sunday announced summer procedures for travel across the King Hussein Bridge to the occupied West Bank and said that the procedures will take effect May 18.

Travellers should register to cross in advance in order to avoid congestion and to allow for the concerned authorities to control the travel process across the bridge, said the PSD statement.

In a bid to facilitate and organise bridge crossings to the West Bank, which are more frequent during the summer months, several registration offices will be opened from 7:30 a.m. daily except Fridays starting next Wednesday to fix dates for the travellers, said the statement.

According to the programme, a total of 1,800 travellers daily will be registered by the following Amman Governorate police stations: Marka, Zuhur, Ashrafieh, Hashemi, Muhajireen, Shmeisani, Biad, Wadi Seer, Rashid and Al Hussein.

Non-Arab travellers holding permits to cross, as well as others with permits from the Red Cross or those persons accompanying funerals to the West Bank will be allowed to cross without registering through the above programme, said the statement.

The statement cautioned all travellers to make sure that they hold valid permits for travel to the West Bank before registering.

Syria is trying to increase imports from Jordan, says visiting minister

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Syria is trying to increase its imports from Jordan and diversify its exports to the Kingdom according to Syrian Minister of Economy and Foreign Affairs Mohammad Imadi.

At a meeting of the joint Jordanian-Syrian Economic Committee Sunday in Amman the panel prepared a report to be submitted to the higher committee meeting due to convene again in Amman next month.

Reports on the operations of joint companies operating in Jordan and Syria since 1975 were reviewed, according to Dr. Imadi who led the Syrian side to the meeting.

"We have discussed all measures related to promoting cooperation and expansion of trade and economic ties" said the visiting minister.

He told Jordan Television following the meeting that trade exchanges between Damascus and Amman are in the interest of the two countries. "and on our part in Syria, we are trying to increase our imports from Jordan and diversify our exports to the Kingdom."

Along with the minutes of the meeting, Dr. Imadi and his Jordanian counterpart Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf signed an economic and trade protocol aimed at promoting trade and cooperation in transport and industry between the two countries.

"With this accord, we have taken the first step towards



Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf Sunday reviews bilateral trade issues with her counterpart Syrian Minister

of Economy and Foreign Affairs Mohammad Imadi. Attending the meeting were members of the Jordanian-Syrian Economic Committee (Petra photo)

adjusting the trade balance between the two countries which is heavily in favour of Syria," said Dr. Khalaf.

She told Jordan Television that during the meeting both sides tried to overcome obstacles impeding the marketing of Jordanian products in Syrian markets, and agreed to revise the list of products for export to either country.

"We also tackled several other problems related to trade and transport and

issues related to account settlements and banking procedures, and we agreed to convene a meeting by specialists from the two sides to lay the groundwork for details of the future working plan in trade, to be followed by an economic ministerial committee meeting which would put the final touches to an overall report to be submitted to the higher committee," said Dr. Khalaf.

Dr. Imadi and his team earlier held meetings with

Minister of Water and Irrigation Hisam Al Khathir and Minister of Supply Radi Ibrahim to review import and export operations between Amman and Damascus.

Questions including Jordan's purchases of cereals and animal feed from Syria were discussed by the two sides.

Dr. Imadi and Dr. Khalaf met later with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and briefed him on the outcome of their meetings.

Jewish American author continues 40-year fight against Zionism

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Alfred Lilienthal's persistent struggle against Zionism for over 40 years and his steadfast dedication to defending Arab and Palestinian rights make it difficult to believe that the renowned writer and specialist in Middle Eastern affairs is an American Jew. In fact, he is not.

"I am not an American Jew but a Jewish American," Dr. Lilienthal told a group of Jordanian friends and journalists just before his departure from Amman Sunday. "Israel's flag is not mine," he maintained.

A zealous combatant against Zionism, Dr. Lilienthal considers the turn-of-the-century movement as a serious threat to Jewish and American interests. For over

40 years, Dr. Lilienthal, who was repeatedly harassed for his anti-Zionist stands, has been assiduously trying to fight against the dangers of Zionism.

Author of many articles on the Middle East including "Israel's Flag Is Not Mine" for the Reader's Digest, and of the books, "What Price Israel", "There Goes the Middle East" and "The Other Side of the Coin", Dr. Lilienthal believes that Arabs and Jews can live peacefully together if Jews relinquished their Zionist thinking.

"Arabs and Jews have lots in common," said Dr. Lilienthal, who paid a short visit to Jordan. "It is the Western intrusion of Zionism that has killed this relationship."

On an annual basis, Dr. Lilienthal tours the Middle East to visit Arab countries and Israel and to talk with

their leaders and people. He believes that the Arabs, and Palestinians in particular, are not fully aware of Zionism and how it operates.

Dissatisfied with "the Israeli-Palestinian accords," Dr. Lilienthal points to the growing influence of Zionism and blames the U.S. for not respecting its role as an honest broker in the Arab-Israeli peace process.

"The peace process is worth trying but there are many ambiguities in the (Palestinian-Israeli) accords," he said. "And instead of being impartial, the U.S., in many instances, has lined up behind Israel."

"(The Palestinian President Yasser) Arafat is aware of Zionism and how it manipulates," he warned, pointing out that the U.S. president is being surrounded

by American Jews placed in senior posts who have Zionist ambitions and whose words are heard.

Warning of an imminent Zionist invasion, Dr. Lilienthal, the author of "The Zionist Connection" which became a best-seller in Canada and which was described by Foreign Affairs as the "culminating masterwork" of his anti-Zionist crusade, insisted that Arabs should not lift the boycott on Israel until Israel normalises its nationalisation.

"Israel has got to become an Israeli state and not a Jewish state," he said.

"If Israel demands normalisation of relations then far-sighted people should demand normalisation of nationalisation in Israel — that is growing in power and is threatening peace and Jews."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Holiday closings announced

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministries, government departments and public institutions will be closed in observing of 'Eid Al Adha and Independence Day beginning Saturday May 21 till Wednesday evening May 25, according to two communiqués issued by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali. The holidays mark the end of the pilgrimage season and the Kingdom's Independence Day which falls on May 25.

Oman, Jordan start civil aviation talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian-Omani talks on bilateral relations in civil aviation started in Amman Sunday at the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). The talks, chaired on the Jordanian side by CAA Director General Ahmad Jweib and on the Omani side by Deputy Director of the Omani Civil Aviation Authority Ahmad Ben Saeed Al Ruwahi, dealt with operating direct flights between the two countries, training

issues and exchanging expertise.

U.S. levies \$20 fee for visa applications

AMMAN — Based on legislation recently passed by the United States Congress, the United States Department of State has announced that effective Monday May 16, 1994, the United States embassy in Amman and many other embassies worldwide must collect a fee for most visa applications. A U.S. Information Press release said Sunday. A fee of \$20 (or the equivalent in the local currency) will be levied for each visa application, including those for children. This fee is not refunded if the visa application is refused, the release said. Citizens of countries who normally pay a "visa issuance" fee will now pay the visa application fee of \$20 in addition to the "visa issuance" fee. All visa applications should also be accompanied by a passport-size photograph. Persons travelling on official government business and in possession of the required diplomatic note, are exempt from this fee.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

FILM

★ Belgian film entitled "Toto Le Heros" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

LECTURE

★ Lecture entitled "Unknown Sacred Shrines in Jordan" (with a slide presentation) by architect and artist 'Ammar Khammash at the Friends of Archaeology Centre at 7:00 p.m.

CONCERT

★ Concert by Jafr band on the death anniversary of Lu'ay Sayegh at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of paintings by 20 Jordanian and Iraqi artists (including Widad Orfali, Hussein Da'seh, Waddah Al Ward, Adnan Al Hlu and Mahmoud Hussein) at Orfali Art Gallery in Umm Uthala (Tel. 826932).

★ Exhibition by 46 artists entitled "He, Bonjour Monsieur La Fontaine" at the French Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of paintings by artist Salman Al Basri at Alla Art Gallery (Tel. 639303).

★ Exhibition by Iraqi artist Shawkat Al Rubaie at the Italian Language Centre (9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 669346).

★ Exhibition of water colour paintings by artist Itab Hreih and another exhibition of ceramics by Sajida Elmeshelechi at Ain Art Gallery in Wadi Saqra (Tel. 644451, 652823).

★ Exhibition by artist Helmi El-Touni at Baladna Art Gallery (Tel. 687598).

★ Art exhibition by five Egyptian artists at Darat Al Fann of the Abdul Hameed Shomaa Foundation in Jabal Laweidh. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).

INDULGE YOURSELF WITH THE DEAD SEA

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
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Either we have it or we don't

THE UPPER HOUSE of Parliament's (Senate) endorsement on Saturday of the draft sales tax contrasted substantially with the way the Lower House handled the issue. The House spent many days debating the proposed tax and introduced several key amendments, notably lowering the tax base from 10 to Seven per cent and adding a long list of items and commodities that will be exempt from the new levy. The people's representatives were deeply divided on the subject and their deliberations were remarkably acrimonious for the most part. What emerged from the parliamentarians in the House was a composite of conflicting ideas that ended up watering down considerably the financial and economic impact of the tax law.

This expected decline in sales tax revenues would no doubt put a damper on Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali's original thoughts on improving the infrastructure of the country's civil service as well as on initiating new economic projects. Changing civil service for the better has always been one of the key landmarks in Dr. Majali's domestic policy. Still the prime minister has effectively ruled out any salary increases because of lower tax revenues. Dashing all hopes for salary or pension hikes is thus put squarely on the House for lowering the sales tax base.

This is certainly one way of looking at the issue. Another way of examining this problem could be found in the revelation made by the prime minister on Saturday that Jordan is among the most, if not the most, public service congested country in the world. Trimming the size of bureaucracy would seem the sensible way to reconcile the demand for improvement in the income of state employees and pensioners on pre-sales tax budgetary allocations. Yet, the decision by the Cabinet on Saturday to create 4,500 new state positions does not seem to tally with the proposition that the government has become overladen with bureaucracy. We either have too many state employees or we do not. If the former is correct then, why the government has moved to create new governmental positions? If the latter corresponds more to the fact of the situation, then the assertion that state bureaucracy is already overburdened and cumbersome needs another look.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL DUSTOUR daily Sunday commented on U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's scheduled tour of the Middle East region by expressing belief that it constitutes a fresh indication that the United States is keen on pursuing the peace process. But, shutting between Arab capitals to convey the views of leaders is not enough to achieve the aspired peace, especially on the Syrian-Israeli track, which has not yet seen by progress, the paper said. To achieve peace and ensure the return of the Golan Heights to Syrian sovereignty, said the paper, requires serious efforts on the part of the United States administration which should help end Israel's intransigence and persuade its leaders to withdraw Israeli forces from the occupied plateau, without real pressure on the Israelis, said the paper, there can be no chance for Mr. Christopher to achieve any result from his fresh mission, added the daily. While we remain committed to the peace process and wish Mr. Christopher success in ending the deadlock the paper said, it must be emphasised that unless quick progress on the Israeli-Syrian track was achieved soon, the successes Washington made along the Palestinian-Israeli track would be in jeopardy.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour discussed the "lottery" announced by the United States embassy in Amman inviting people to submit applications for immigrant visas, and said this could be a trap. Mohammad Daoud said that the lottery programme could be designed to attract certain types of youth or skilled people to become incorporated in the American nation, benefiting the United States and depriving their original countries of their skill. The writer said that the Americans are trying to exploit the uneasy situation in many of the Third World countries, luring them to American, with keen interest in attracting talented youths from the Arab World whose own countries have spent a fortune on their training. With the departure of skilled and talented youth from the Third World countries, the developing world would be deprived of the means for development and progress, added the daily. The writer cautioned Jordanians to abort "Washington's plots" and urged the Arab regimes to offer talented and skilled people all facilities for creative work necessary for the Arab World's progress and development.

By Youssef Azmeah
Reuters

DUBAI — Military experts said on Tuesday that the stage in Yemen appeared set for a classical and prolonged war of attrition.

They said neither side in the Yemen war appeared able to score a decisive victory that would settle the conflict between the northern president and his southern opponents.

Both sides have claimed battlefield victories since full-scale fighting erupted last Wednesday but many of their claims have been disproved by their own subsequent statements.

The experts said, however, that one thing seemed certain President Ali Abdullah Saleh had so far failed to conquer the southern stronghold of Aden to topple its defiant leaders led by Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beidh.

Military experts said a northern push on Aden mainly from bases in the south set up under a scheme to integrate the armed forces of the two halves of the country that merged in 1990 had been resisted fiercely.

They said reinforcements Sanaa tried to send south to back up the offensive had largely failed to break through defences of southern fighters fighting against what they see as an annexation attempt by the more populous north.

To go south, northern troops would have had to go through rugged mountain passes that are easily blocked by opposing forces.

"We don't know exactly what happened, but it does seem that reinforcements from the north were not able to get through and isolated northern units in the south have not been able to reach Aden," one Western expert said.

Sanaa said on the first day of the fighting that forces loyal to Mr. Saleh were poised to take Aden within hours from what they called rebels seeking to split Yemen



Yemen seems set for war of attrition

again only four years after it fulfilled a 400-year-old dream of unity.

Every day since, it has claimed its forces were closer to the port city that was the former capital of South Yemen.

On Monday northern commanders said their troops were within five km of Aden. They repeated the claim on Tuesday but reports from the city said life was normal there, suggesting the attackers were not that close.

"Aden is very quiet still," said a Western visitor on Tuesday.

Southerners who argue that Mr. Saleh wants to turn the union into a personal fief say they have rolled back the northern advance and fighting is now centred on three fronts close to the former borders, the nearest being some 100 km away.

They say they too are keen to remain within a single Yemen but would resist his bid to overthrow by force leaders who only last year won overwhelming victory in the country's first ever multi-party elections.

Mr. Beidh's Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) swept all

southern seats in the election and won one or two more in the north, coming second to Mr. Saleh's General People's Congress (GPC) in the number of seats it holds in parliament.

The military experts said that the stage appeared set for a long and bloody conflict.

They said that northern armies which outnumber southerners by two-to-one in theory enjoy the upper hand, but they face better motivated and trained southerners drilled by years of iron

rule by Mr. Beidh's Soviet-style Yemen Socialist Party.

Northern forces may also have to fight rearguard actions to defend their long lines of communication against heavily armed tribesmen that may have come to Mr. Beidh's aid because of their own grievances against Mr. Saleh, Yemeni sources said.

A senior American envoy touring the Gulf this week sounded a warning to Mr. Saleh.

Robert Pelletreau, as-

stant U.S. secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, said the northerners appeared stalled in their advance.

"What this indicates is that... if the fighting does not stop it's going to be protracted and very bloody," he said.

"There is not a military solution to the Yemen problem. It may be that after another brief period, when the leaders, particularly the northern leaders, realise there's not an easy victory, they will hear the words of the... world," he added.

Clinton may compromise on China MFN

By Susan Corawell
Reuters

WASHINGTON — As the deadline for renewing China's trading status approaches, some analysts think U.S. President Bill Clinton will neither totally extend or reject Beijing's privileges but seek a compromise.

The question of whether to renew Most Favoured Nation (MFN) trading status for China on June 3 is an important one for the U.S. and Chinese economies as well as for the countries' relations far into the future — and for Mr. Clinton's political standing.

The U.S. president has been widely criticised for weakness in his foreign policy, with the Wall Street Journal declaring last week that he "speaks softly and carries a twig."

If Mr. Clinton wants to counter that impression, he needs at least to appear to stick to his demands that China improve its human rights record in order to keep its trading preferences.

"I think they (the administration) are hoping that the Chinese will take a few more baby steps, face-saving gestures, to enable them to make that recommendation" that Beijing's trading privileges be renewed, said Mike Jendrzewczyk, Washing-

ton director of Human Rights Watch/Asia.

"If they don't, then clearly Clinton will have no choice than to use a tool that partially revokes MFN, or other sanctions," Mr. Jendrzewczyk said. He said this might be "a compromise of tough talk and limited sanctions."

MFN lets China pay the lowest available tariffs on its exports to the United States. U.S. officials began to talk cautiously about the possibility of selectively withdrawing benefits from the Chinese in March, after a difficult trip to Beijing by Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

A senior U.S. official said compromise proposals were being studied, such as targeting state enterprises while trying to spare China's fledgling private sector or raising tariffs on some commodities, but no decision had been made.

Robert Zoellick, a former undersecretary of state in the Bush administration, wrote in Monday's Washington Post that "the greatest danger for the president now is that... the administration will muddle through with half-measures and cobbled-together compromises," on MFN for China. He said Mr. Clinton should go ahead and renew Beijing's trading status.

But some people on Capi-

tol Hill favour limited sanctions.

"There is much interest here on the hill in targeting revocations toward products made by the Chinese military, and maybe a few other clearly state-run products" such as toys, said Representative Nancy Pelosi, Democrat of California.

"If the president says there is some progress on human rights, but not enough, and proposes targeted revocation, I think Congress would accept that," she said.

Congress had many arguments about providing MFN for China with former President Bush. Candidate Clinton criticised Bush in the 1992 campaign as kowtowing to Beijing by allowing MFN to continue in the face of serious human rights violations.

Congressional action last year was pre-empted by Mr. Clinton's executive order insisting China make overall significant progress on rights or risk losing MFN status on June 3, 1994.

But Beijing has continued to jail dissidents and deny free emigration, thus far failing to take enough steps — even symbolic ones — to provide Mr. Clinton clear leeway to renew MFN.

Recently, Mr. Clinton has been sounding more upbeat about MFN, saying last week

that a few "last humps" had to be surmounted. U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor said Monday that renewal is "achievable" for China in the time remaining.

Congressional advocates of extending MFN say a partial revocation of China's trading privileges won't work.

"That is no better than (total) revocation," said Representative Robert Matsui, another California Democrat. "Our problem is you can't prevent the Chinese from retaliating, and we could end up in a trade war with China."

Mr. Matsui said cancelling MFN would be "massive unresponsible action" that could hurt the U.S. economy too. Business sources say Chinese retaliation could cost some 100,000 U.S. jobs.

But Mr. Matsui said Mr. Clinton was "dealt a bad hand" on MFN from the time when Congress felt Mr. Bush was not tough enough on Beijing.

"The real problem is that this kind of issue should not drive the entire relationship," Mr. Matsui said. He said he hoped the Chinese would now comply with the rights issues so both countries could "save face and strengthen our relationship," and that the United States would drop the linkage in the future.

German presidential race looks good for Kohl's man

By Tom Heneghan
Reuters

BONN — Germany's presidential race, an odd mix of polite public shadow-boxing and behind-the-scenes struggle, looks like it is shaping up into a victory for Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Kohl's candidate, Christian Democrat (CDU) Roman Herzog, seems increasingly confident as the May 23 vote nears, while his Social Democratic (SPD) rival Johannes Rau shows signs of fading in the final stretch.

Most importantly, the Liberal Free Democrats (FDP), who will cast the deciding votes, are slowly coming into line with Mr. Kohl, with whom they want to continue their 11½ year coalition government after the general election in October.

There are no public opinion polls to show who is up or down in the race for the presidency, a ceremonial post for which open campaigning is considered unseemly and statesman-like interviews are the main way to make one's ambition known.

The complex nature of the election, which will be decided by 1,324 delegates to a special electoral college in Berlin, also makes private vote-counting a bit tricky.

But CDU party strategists say the are sure Mr. Herzog will win. Comments from the SPD and FDP last week seemed to back that up.

"There are days when I think it's all over," the normally cheery Mr. Rau told Reuters in a candid moment during an interview.

By contrast, FDP Chairman Klaus Kinkel, who is also Mr. Kohl's foreign minister and staunch supporter, sounds more confident than ever after seeing a rival who tried to rally liberals around Mr. Rau suffer an embarrassing setback within the party.

"I'll be running the show," he said when the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung asked who would decide how the FDP will swing in the crucial third round of the electoral college's vote.

Mr. Kinkel declined to say he would support Mr. Herzog, but he has already committed the FDP to four more years with Mr. Kohl so a vote against his presidential candidate would be strange indeed.

Naming the successor to Richard Von Weizsaecker, another CDU man who became the moral voice of the nation during his 10 years in office, would be an important boost for Mr. Kohl's party in this year's 19-poll election marathon.

The CDU has rebounded from poor showings in the two votes held so far and now looks set to overtake the SPD and its chancellor candidate Rudolf Scharping in the opinion polls.

A Rau victory only five months before the Oct. 16 poll would be a surprise, recalling the shift of power to the SPD that the election of his father-in-law Gustav Heinemann presaged before the 1969 general election that Willy Brandt won.

The race is fraught with complications, some of which could make it a cliff-hanger right down to the last round of voting.

Mr. Herzog, the widely respected chief justice of Germany's Supreme Court, trails far behind North Rhine Westphalia state Premier Rau in popularity polls — but this does not matter since only the votes in the electoral college count.

The small FDP has its own candidate, the veteran liberal Helmut Schmidt, but she is expected to bow out after two symbolic rounds of voting to allow Mr. Herzog to win.

The FDP nominated her in anger after Mr. Kohl single-handedly put forward the east German Steffen Heitmann as his choice last autumn. Mr. Heitmann dropped out after two months of controversy over his arch-conservative views.

Although the idea of having an east German as president was widely debated, only the greens nominated one. Their candidate, civil rights activist Jens Reich, has no hope of winning.

Procedures for the presidential vote are complicated and leave room for last-minute surprises.

The winner must garner 50 per cent of the vote in the first two rounds or a simple majority in the third and final poll.

Mr. Herzog's CDU and Bavarian CSU sister party have 619 votes, just short of the 663 needed for an absolute majority, while the SPD has only 502 deputies it can count on.

Outside force in Rwanda could face great hostility

By Aidan Hartley
Reuters

NAIROBI — The blood of foreign soldiers will run with that of thousands of Rwandans if an outside intervention force is sent to try to end the carnage raging in Rwanda, African political analysts say.

Despairing at its inability to stop the slaughter in the Central African state, the United Nations proposed on Tuesday sending a new peacekeeping force of some 5,500 troops to support relief operations and protect civilians.

But rebels and government soldiers have already made clear it will have a fight on its hands.

A U.N. Secretariat report submitted to the Security Council said the troops should be able to defend themselves before a ceasefire took hold but not take military action against feuding Rwandan armies, militias and rebels.

But the report failed to tackle the crucial issue of who would take part in any such

force.

The West, scarred by its experience in Somalia, is reluctant to be involved in another African crisis. African countries, under U.S. pressure to take the lead, are worried about being sucked into a dangerous and costly regional conflict.

Regional experts have little doubt any such force would soon take casualties.

"It is a foregone conclusion, the army is an indiscriminate rabble and the rebels would see outsiders as the enemy," said one Nairobi-based political expert.

The rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF), fearing outside intervention could deprive it of all-out victory it senses is in its grasp, says outside armies should only be involved if they intend to remove a "clique of killers" in power.

"We reject any international peacekeeping force, be it U.N. or OAU (Organisation of African Unity). We feel it's too late for such a force when thousands of our people have already been killed," RPF military chief

Major-General Paul Kagame told Reuters recently.

The RPF says it launched an offensive on April 8, two days after President Juvenal Habyarimana was killed in a rocket attack on his plane, to stop mass killings of people from the small Tutsi tribe and Hutu opposition party supporters.

It says it wants to bring to justice the Hutu death squads and government troops who witnesses say have conducted the estimated 200,000 murders and the best way to stop further killings is to rout their foes on the battlefield.

"We believe those pushing for such a (intervention) force would like to deny the RPF outright victory," Mr. Kagame said.

Barely one month after it closed the door on its ill-fated mission in Somalia, the United States is set to become involved in another African crisis.

On Tuesday, it said it was sending 15 military flights to carry relief supplies to Rwanda refugees in Tanzania and Burundi.

But this time Washington is adamant it will not get involved militarily and is pushing African states to organise its own force either through the United Nations or the OAU.

"American lives will not be lost in some far-off African crisis. The U.S. wants other states to bear the casualties, but is under pressure to try to halt the killing," said one African analyst.

The forces of the Rwandan rump government have already attacked the handful of U.N. "blue berets" still in the country.

On Monday, a Ghanaian soldier guarding civilians sheltering at a sports stadium in a part of Kigali held by the RPF was killed by a mortar bomb.

He was the first U.N. soldier to die since 10 Belgians were disarmed, tortured and murdered by presidential guards on April 7 while guarding opposition Hutu Prime Minister Agathe Uwilingiyimana, who was also butchered.

HUMAN RIGHTS FILE

Murder in the name of 'honour'

By Waleed Sadi

THERE IS no human rights treaty that does not accord primacy to the right to life. This priority consideration of the right to life began with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 where Article 3 stipulates that "everyone has right to life, liberty and security of persons." Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights echoed the same principle when it declared that "every human being has the inherent right to life, that this right shall be protected by law" and that "no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of life." The same sentiment about the priority of the right to life is repeated over and over again in practically all the other human rights instruments either expressly or by implication as indeed is the case in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Since this is the case and there is an international unanimity that the right to life comes ahead of all other rights, since without it there can be no possibility to enjoy them, I wonder why Jordan keeps on ignoring or brushing aside the right to life of the many girls and women who are murdered year in and year out in the name of "family honour." The case of Khawla, the 15-year-old girl who was shot to death by her brother a few days ago because she was suspected of sexual wrongdoing, brings to light this ominous phenomenon that has afflicted our society and other traditional societies in Arab and Islamic countries without causing as much as a ripple in

the national psyche of these countries.

In the case of Khawla, the father of the murdered girl instigated his son to take the life of his sister in cold blood on the strength of a mere telephone call that Khawla had an illicit relation with a man.

There was no uproar over the case of Khawla just as there was no outcry from either the public or the government when similar crimes were committed over the course of the past years. This suggests that there is a societal acceptance or state tolerance of this evil as necessary since "sexual honour" appears to supercede or preempt all other manifestations of "honour" in Islamic societies.

Even worse, there is an apparent judicial tolerance of such crimes as a recent criminal court decision would demonstrate. Last week the High Criminal Court ruled that a father who killed his daughter to cleanse the family honour is guilty of manslaughter rather than murder and gave the father a mere six months jail sentence. There is a clear signal by the judiciary in the country that crimes committed in the name of family honour would be treated as mere manslaughter. Would-be killers in such situations are being served with judicial notice that the most that they can expect in terms of punishment is a relatively short jail sentence.

The purpose of this writing is neither to defend extramarital sexual behaviour nor to promote it. The concern is to call for an immediate action by the government and the people of Jordan to stop this

senseless slaughter of girls and women who could be also innocent of the charge arbitrarily levelled against them. Islam per se does not give the immediate family members of any girl or woman the right to take her life simply because a father or brother thinks that she has engaged in a sexual wrongdoing. It would have been even less painful had any such girl or woman been even given a "family trial" during which she is accorded an opportunity to defend herself against wild accusations or rumours.

Even when a girl or woman is "proven" guilty, neither the Jordanian law nor the various international human rights conventions that Jordan has ratified would tolerate the kind of extrajudicial execution meted to them. This year alone 10 women lost their lives in the name of "family honour." No doubt the death toll in this category of crime will rise to many more before the end of 1994. So the cycle of violence against unsuspecting girls and women can be projected to continue unabated simply because there is no counter campaign by either the government or by the people.

It appears that the government and the public treat this subject as a hot potato that it would rather not hear about, much less deal with head on, in a manner appropriate to the reputation of the Kingdom as a country well developed and endowed when it comes to human rights and the rule of law. No such reaction appears to be in the cards judging by the length of the crisis and its perpetuation over the past decades. It

seems to me that an initiative on the part of the leadership of the country is called for to stop this senseless killing. The government can no longer afford to treat this problem as if it is a benign issue better brushed under the carpet. We are treaty-obligated to protect the lives of every life in the country especially the innocent ones.

Life cannot continue to be taken away by arbitrary means in a country as developed and progressive as Jordan.

We are well into the 21st century and it is high time that a national campaign be conducted against this category of crime that is a legacy of the dark era. The ongoing culture of tolerating "family honour" crimes has got to cease by replacing it with other antidotal measures that would satisfy the sense of family honour that Jordanians by and large feel they would wish to defend.

ADEN — Southern Yemeni leader Ali Salem Al Baidh is famed for chameleon-like political skills but must rely on the armed support of his disciplined followers in his bloody confrontation with President Ali Abdollah Saleh.

The Maoist-turned-moderate has long been called a "master of tactics" because of an ability to shift between camps at the right moment in a volatile country riven with assassinations, coups and military conflict.

But this month the Yemeni vice-president had to abandon political gamesmanship. He called on the support of popular militias formed in the decades of Communist rule to repulse an armed assault by Mr. Saleh's northern forces on his southern stronghold of Aden.

Aden radio said tens of thousands, resentful at what they saw as a domineering north, had responded to the call.

Mr. Baidh's less numerous but better-trained troops were fighting a war for political survival four years after he and Mr. Saleh united their countries in a marriage of convenience.

Yemen's Baidh: Former Maoist is adept at change

Reuters

The southern leader is a star product of the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP), former Marxist South Yemen's cold war-era rulers. It ran the Arabian desert state ruthlessly for over 20 years in close alliance with the former Soviet Union.

He rose steadily within the ranks of the YSP, becoming YSP leader after a January 1986 inner party bloody conflict which ousted President Ali Nasser Mohammad. More than 10,000 people were killed including many senior party members.

He is very shrewd in taking sides, choosing the right time and picking up the winning side in every party conflict, said one northern political figure.

when democracy reforms began toppling similar totalitarian regimes.

Mr. Baidh and life-long friend and former South Yemen President Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas turned into staunch advocates of a united Yemen based on multi-party rule and free market economy.

Mr. Baidh saw the union as South Yemen's way out of isolation after its Soviet ally began to collapse and its Communist friends across East Europe lost power.

"He has realised the true situation of the Yemen society, but only after a long and bitter experience," said a prominent south Yemeni journalist.

Unity was agreed in May 1990 and the YSP and Mr. Saleh's General People's Congress (GPC) jointly ruled the country through a three-year transitional period that ended in April 1993 when the first multi-party general elections were held. The YSP won all seats in the south and gained several in the north. The Islamists, who came third in the election race, joined the GPC and the YSP

in a coalition government. Born into a prominent family in 1939 in Hadramaut province in central South Yemen, Mr. Baidh studied electrical engineering in Cairo after graduating Aden's technical institute.

He graduated in 1961, returning to Aden to become defence minister in November 1967 in the first government after South Yemen achieved independence from Britain.

He was sacked in 1970 when the radical left of the party toppled the government in 1969. Since he held several ministerial portfolios.

In 1980 he was sacked from the cabinet where he was deputy prime minister and demoted from YSP central committee member to candidate committee member for violating the progressive family law which restricted bigamy.

Gangs shooting it out in Bombay

By Madhu Nainan
Agence France Presse

BOMBAY — The guns and knives are out as Bombay's ganglords battle for control of the lucrative drug and flesh trade in India's financial capital.

There has been a rash of mob-related slayings as the three most powerful gangs settle old scores and fight over the flourishing smuggling, protection and extortion rackets.

In one widely reported incident, a gunman dressed as a lawyer whipped out a pistol from beneath his gown and shot and wounded the brother of alleged mafia don Amar Naik outside a Bombay courtroom.

The authorities attribute the clashes to the decline of the man who was once the undisputed kingpin of the Bombay underworld, Dawood Ibrahim, the son of a policeman.

Ibrahim reached the top of the local underworld more than a decade ago after a bloody gang war. Police accuse him of running a vast criminal empire from his base in Dubai.

Ibrahim's fortunes began to slide last year when the Bombay police fingered him as the mastermind behind the March 12, 1993 bombings here that left more than 300 people dead. A warrant is out for his arrest.

Ibrahim is accused of organising the bombings in retaliation for the anti-Muslim pogroms that rocked Bombay in December 1992 and January 1993 following the destruction of the Babri Mosque in the town of Ayodhya.

The police cracked down on Ibrahim's gold, silver and narcotics smuggling operations and arrested several members of his gang in connection with the March 1993 bombings. Other members of his gang have been forced into hiding.

With Ibrahim's eclipse, his Hindu rivals Amar Naik and Arun Gawli began to muscle in on his operations. But they quickly turned on each other.

Gawli's men are suspected of carrying out the daring April 18 shooting of Ashwin Naik, Amar Naik's brother, outside a courtroom here. Ashwin Naik was seriously wounded and his brother has been in hiding since the attack.

Two days later, suspected Naik gunmen opened fire on Shankarrao Jadhav, a leader of a powerful union of textile workers, at a busy traffic roundabout.

Jadhav, who is believed to be close to the Gawli gang, escaped the attempt on his life, which the authorities believe was linked to an attempt by Bombay mobs to buy up land owned by textile mills.

Christopher delivers Israeli response

(Continued from page 1)

toled reporters he would not be able to supply much information this time either.

On his plane to Damascus, Mr. Christopher said he intended visiting the Palestinian self-governing enclave of Jericho next week. His foray to the West Bank town will probably take place on Tuesday or Wednesday, officials said.

Israeli troops evacuated a 62-square-kilometre enclave around Jericho last week in accordance with a deal signed

with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, leaving its Palestinian residents to establish a self-governing council.

"I would expect to be meeting with the Palestinian leadership again on this trip, this time in Jericho," Mr. Christopher said. He noted that Palestinian West Bank leaders whom he had frequently met in east Jerusalem on former trips, including Faisal Al Hussein and Sabeh Erekat, had now been named members of the Palestinian self-governing council.

"I look forward to meeting them in Jericho," Mr. Christopher said. The visit is likely to be interpreted by some in Israel and elsewhere as another sign that the Palestinians are on their way to building a state in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

A senior U.S. official said: "Our position on a Palestinian state has not changed. We do not support the establishment of a Palestinian state." He said Israel had not objected to the trip.

The Palestinians have achieved many of the symbols of sovereignty, including their own police. But Israel retains the right to protect Jewish settlements and conduct joint military patrols and maintains shared control over border crossings.

own police. But Israel retains the right to protect Jewish settlements and conduct joint military patrols and maintains shared control over border crossings.

The U.S. official said one purpose of the Jericho trip was to dramatise the fact that the Israeli-PLO accord was producing real change in the lives of Palestinians and they were assuming responsibility for their own affairs for the first time.

But it was crucial for the Palestinians to set up governing structures that worked and that satisfied aid donors, he said.

Hariri ends strike but loses face

(Continued from page 1)

"The rulers make the mistakes and the people pay the price," Rafik Khouri wrote in a front-page editorial in the Christian conservative newspaper Al Anwar. "Going back on a mistake is a virtue... but the important thing is that the withdrawal be the last mistake."

Local mediators had worked out a compromise between Mr. Hariri and Mr. Berri after returning from Damascus, the first direct contact with both leaders in a week, political sources said.

Mr. Hariri and Mr. Berri had demanded sweeping government changes that could have weakened Mr. Hariri's control over the cabinet.

meeting with Mr. Assad provided Mr. Hariri with a decent way out. They ruled out any major changes in the government for the time being but reported that a new cabinet could be formed in coming weeks.

Mr. Hariri also had telephone conversations with Mr. Hrawi and Mr. Berri after returning from Damascus, the first direct contact with both leaders in a week, political sources said.

Mr. Hrawi and Mr. Berri had demanded sweeping government changes that could have weakened Mr. Hariri's control over the cabinet.

6 more killed in South Africa

(Continued from page 1)

others from being sentenced to death at a "people's court" at the Cato Crest settlement, near Durban, the same day.

The violence has broken a post-apartheid euphoria since a new black majority government headed by ANC leader Nelson Mandela was sworn in following April 26-29 elections.

Police spokeswoman Captain Janine Smith said police did not know who was to blame for Friday's massacre of 12 male children and adults but feared more trouble could follow.

The Tokoza massacre, the worst single act of violence since the poll, was condemned

by the new power-sharing government, whose president, Mr. Mandela, has pledged efforts to end the violence tearing South Africa apart.

Other major political leaders, including his rival Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthe, have publicly urged peace and reconciliation as democracy takes hold in a divided nation.

The Tokoza killings of victims, aged between 13 and 25, were a throwback to a style of massacres during the apartheid years which were blamed on "third force" agents, formerly of police and security services.

Gaza centre still under Israeli control

(Continued from page 1)

four people who needed treatment for bullet wounds said they had been in a taxi when the shooting started.

The attack took place near the settlement of Morag where the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) claimed responsibility for seriously wounding an Israeli truck driver last Thursday.

In Jericho, 30 armed Jewish settlers prayed at a synagogue for the first time since Palestinian policemen were posted at the entrance.

"I didn't see any Arab policemen. They don't exist," said Rabbi Mordechai Rabinovitch after filing past three Palestinians in olive-green uniforms and carrying Kalashnikov assault rifles.

"I saw only our soldiers and they alone protect us..." said the rabbi, who runs the Jericho Yeshiva, or religious studies centre.

The settlers too were armed, most with Uzi machine pistols, as they entered the building, eyes on the ground to avoid acknowledging the Palestinians who took control of their first autonomous enclave on Friday.

ches and immediately started praying.

Far-right Israeli deputy Hanan Porat of the National Religious Party accompanied the settlers, as did another rabbi, Eliezer Waldman, who played a leading role in the Jewish occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile a Palestinian militant group is ready to change its tactics in the Gaza Strip to avoid conflict there with the newly arrived Palestinian police force, its leader was quoted as saying on Sunday.

Fathi Shuqqi, general secretary of Islamic Jihad, said his group would work to bring down the PLO-Israeli accord which offered only "ridiculous" powers to the self-rule authority.

But in an interview with Al Quds newspaper, he said Jihad, a guerrilla group implacably opposed to Israel, was now rethinking its strategy and aimed to boost its presence as a political movement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Islamic Jihad will make every effort to avoid a clash (with the Palestinian police) even if it is forced to change its tactics in Gaza," Mr. Shuqqi said. He did not go into details.

His statements were the latest sign Palestinian hardliners have been thrown off balance by the self-rule agreement signed in Cairo earlier this month. Hamas has welcomed Palestinian police even while urging them to behave well (see page 10).

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Cake House

Strife undermines Africa's pursuit of reform

Baskets

They said that task remained huge in a PTA region of about 200 million people, in which at least a dozen countries were classified as least developed countries (LDCs).

"I think everyone recognises that while we want to damp down the market we don't want to do anything which undermines the fundamentals of the property market," he said during a tour of a housing estate.

I'M STUCK WITH A WHOLE CLOSET FULL OF THEM!

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LULET

ALAFI

FREEHI

QUAPEL

Answer here: " - "

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: IRATE LOWLY INTAKE ASACUS
 Answer: What the losing gambler did — BLEW HIS STACK

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LULET

ALAFI

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QUAPEL

Answer here: " - "

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: IRATE LOWLY INTAKE ASACUS
 Answer: What the losing gambler did — BLEW HIS STACK

Rwanda troops attack rebels in capital

NAIROBI (R) — Rwandan government forces launched attacks against rebel positions around Kigali early Sunday, blitzing the capital with mortar barrages and small arms fire, residents said.

Rebels of the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) counter-attacked from hilltop positions surrounding the city and appear to have halted enemy advances near the airport to the east, and around the districts of Reubero and Kicukuro, the residents said.

"There is heavy fighting going on right now and I can hear small arms fire and mortar explosions," one resident told Reuters by phone from the embattled city.

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) said it had turned an aircraft heading for the airport back due to the fighting but hoped a second flight would be able to land later in the day. Kigali was calm Saturday, but fighting has generally been heavy in the city for the past week since RPF forces moved

closer to the key Kanombe government army barracks east of the airport runway.

The mainly Tutsi rebels have seized control of half the tiny country since launching an offensive after President Juvenal Habyarimana was killed in a rocket attack on his plane on April 6, sparking mass killings of Tutsis and opposition Hutus.

Aid workers now estimate 500,000 people have been killed, mostly the victims of radical Hutu death squads rather than casualties from the fighting between rebels and government forces.

Residents said government forces had been using civilians to dig trenches around the Kanombe complex, exposed to rebel artillery from Gasogi Hill to the north, evidently preparing for a ground assault by the RPF.

Government forces have been hit hard by the lack of supplies such as fuel rebels cut major roads to the east and north of the country in the last

month. But travellers to eastern Zaire said the government was flying fresh weapons supplies into the town of Goma and bringing these into the north-western Rwanda town of Gisenyi.

The U.N. reported heavy fighting taking place near the northern government-held garrison town of Ruhengeri and around Bugesera in the south. The U.N. Security Council, which is expected to vote on sending a new peacekeeping force to Rwanda Tuesday, is also set to order an arms embargo on the warring parties.

While the U.N. has reached broad agreement on sending about 5,500 African troops, members still have to sort out a disagreement in which the U.S. wants troops to be deployed in border areas whereas the U.N. says they should secure Kigali airport first.

Some 450 UNAMIR personnel on the ground in Kigali have been in great peril — a

Ghanaian peacekeeper was killed by a mortar explosion last week — but Executive Director of the operation Abdul Kabia said: "We've been here this long and I think we can endure the limitations and dangers a few days more."

Mr. Kabia predicted an initial battalion of Ghanaian troops — deployment of the force is expected to take place in phases — could quickly secure the airport because both warring sides had agreed in principle to hand over the facility.

He added that UNAMIR commander Major-General Romeo Dallaire was still trying to get RPF military chief Major-General Paul Kagame and army Chief of Staff Major-General Augustin Bizimungu to agree to a ceasefire before any foreign troops arrived.

"This is not an intervention force to stop the war. We still want to rely on diplomatic efforts to stop the fighting but there are things we can do even if it goes on," Mr. Kabia said.



Bakili Muluzi, leader of the Malawi United Democratic Front (UDF) opposition party, waves to supporters campaigning for Tuesday's presidential runoff. Observers give Mr. Muluzi a chance to upset President Kamuzu Banda, ending his 30-year rule (AFP photo)

Malawians pray for peace ahead of poll

BLANTYRE, Malawi (R) — Millions of Malawians jammed churches Sunday to pray for peace as campaigning closed for elections likely to unsettle President Kamuzu Banda, supreme ruler of the country for 30 years.

With campaigning for Tuesday's ballot officially closed, state radio devoted its Sunday morning programmes to prayers for a peaceful poll. Malawi's first pluralist elections since independence from Britain in 1964.

Local journalists said churches of all denominations across the central African nation of 9.7 million were full, with church leaders urging calm and restraint.

Political analysts say Mr. Banda, the iron-fisted ruler who brooked no opposition during his one-party rule of 30 years, was likely to be ousted from power by rebels who quit or were sacked from his Malawi Congress Party (MCP).

But the analysts say the race between the MCP and the dissidents grouped under the United Democratic Front (UDF) of former convict Bakili Muluzi could be close.

"Although there are no opinion polls in this country, I think as many people do that the UDF is ahead, judging by the crowds it has been able to draw to its rallies," an African diplomat said.

At his last rally Saturday, Mr. Muluzi was triumphantly cheered by 60,000 supporters in Malawi's commercial capital of Blantyre, where he predicted a landslide poll win for the UDF, a pro-democracy group launched only last year.

Mr. Banda, believed to be in his 90s and unwell since he underwent brain surgery in South Africa last year, mustered only 5,000 people at national celebrations marking his official birthday of 88.

His MCP, which appears to have gained some lost ground

in the last weeks of campaigning, warned voters not to elect the UDF, saying this could plunge Malawi into darkness. "The votes cast will determine whether we march forward into sunlight and a better future or slide backwards into darkness with those who would destroy our unity and deny us progress," said the Malawi News, organ of Mr. Banda's party.

"Use your vote wisely. Vote for Kamuzu, vote for the MCP," it said in a special edition published Saturday.

The Malawi News named no names clearly pointed its guns at Mr. Muluzi, 51, who served a jail term in the 1960s for stealing state funds while he was an employee of the Ministry of Justice.

Two other opposition parties are contesting the polls in which 177 parliamentary seats and the presidency are at stake, but analysts give them little chance.

Journalist voted new Oxford poetry professor

LONDON (R) — War correspondent and columnist James Fenton was elected Oxford University's new professor of poetry. Prof. Fenton, 45, currently a columnist for Britain's Independent newspaper, beat three other candidates for the largely ceremonial post which has been in existence for 300 years. The new professor succeeds Irish poet Seamus Heaney and follows in the footsteps of famous names such as Matthew Arnold, T.S. Eliot, W.H. Auden and Robert Graves. The five-year job carries an annual salary of £4,059 (\$6,079) but the duties are not heavy. The professor is expected to give three lectures a year, judge poetry competitions and make a speech honouring the university's benefactors. Prof. Fenton, a graduate of Oxford's Magdalen College and a runner-up to Heaney in the 1984 election, has been a war correspondent, drama critic and columnist. He also worked on early lyrics for the hit musical Les Misérables. His poetry includes work inspired by the scenes witnessed in his reporting.

Alain Delon operated for hernia

PARIS (AFP) — French film heartthrob Alain Delon, 58, has had an operation for a hernia, his film producer friend Norbert Saada said Saturday. Delon, whose screen career spans more than three decades, starred in films including *Les Paris Burning* in 1965, and more recently *Un Amour De Swann* in 1984. He was admitted Tuesday after complaining of stomach pains.

Cubans plan to reopen Sloppy Joe's Bar

HAVANA (R) — Havana's famous Sloppy Joe's Bar is to reopen a quarter century after it closed, Cuban tourist officials said Saturday. Sloppy Joe's was a must for Americans visiting Havana in the forties and fifties. A visit to the bar by celebrities was de rigueur and non-celebrities flocked there to see them. It wasn't high class. Shapely prostitutes were looked like they were pulled into their dresses hung over there, and Sloppy Joe's didn't serve fancy food but boasted one of the best sandwiches in town — inch-thick ham and cheese on rye. The bartenders, masters of the trade, prepared multi-coloured planters punch and snow-white daiquiris. With the advent of the Cuban Revolution, Sloppy Joe's became an anachronism, and American and other foreign tourists disappeared after the United States cut links with Havana in 1960. The revolution had other priorities, and Sloppy Joe's was neglected and finally closed down. The big doors were shut but the long, single mahogany-top bar remained and so did the showcases full of photographs. There are still photos of some of its famous customers — the heavyweight boxing champ, Joe Louis, dashing Errol Flynn, alluring Ava Gardner, an adolescent-looking Frank Sinatra. Alec Guinness's photo is there because scenes from *Our Man In Havana* were filmed in the bar. Now with the rise in international tourism, there are plans to renovate and reopen the bar.

S. African Airways goes multi-lingual

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Passengers travelling South African Airways (SAA) will face a barrage of greetings in at least four languages, in keeping with the new South Africa, the national carrier said in a statement Saturday. In the bad old days of apartheid South Africa, travellers on SAA were addressed in two languages, Afrikaans first and then English. From Saturday, four days after Nelson Mandela's inauguration as the country's first democratically-elected president, passengers will be greeted in English first, then Afrikaans, then Zulu and Sotho. And on international flights "a greeting appropriate to the country of destination or origin" as well, SAA said in a statement. "It is important that SAA be accepted by its diverse passengers," SAA chief executive Mike Myburgh said in the statement. "We are excited about the rebirth of a new South Africa and we must begin ourselves with the evident change and with international acceptance now that we have become part of the world market again." SAA was also scrapping the old orange, blue and white South African flag off all its aircraft and replacing it with the new, predominantly black, green and gold one.

Blast kills soldier at N. Ireland post

BELFAST (R) — A soldier was fatally wounded by an explosion at a British army checkpoint in a Northern Ireland village late Saturday, police said.

A spokesman said the blast occurred shortly before midnight at the vehicle checkpoint near a police station in the village of Keady, south-west of Belfast near the border with the Irish Republic.

He said the soldier was badly wounded and died soon after-

wards, the first army death in the province this year. The cause of the explosion was not known.

Another man also on duty at the post was unhurt but received treatment for shock.

Reporting from the province, a BBC Radio correspondent said several families who lived nearby were moved out of their homes after the incident and security forces would conduct a security operation in

the area on Sunday morning. The death brought to 26 the number of people killed this year in violence in Northern Ireland.

The outlawed Irish Republican Army, which draws its support from a section of Northern Ireland's 40 per cent Roman Catholic community, is fighting to end British rule in the province. It faces resistance from Protestant guerrillas.

Blair is favourite to head Britain's Labour

LONDON (R) — British voters clearly back Tony Blair, a young Oxford University-educated lawyer, to lead the main opposition Labour Party into the next election.

Opinion polls in Sunday newspapers showed Mr. Blair had built a healthy lead in the behind-the-scenes battle to succeed John Smith, who died Thursday from a heart attack.

Mr. Blair — telegenic, articulate and expected to appeal to middle-class voters — is the man feared most by the ruling Conservatives. He stands on the right of the Labour Party.

Candidates have agreed not to lobby for the role of "prime minister in waiting" until after Mr. Smith's funeral Friday.

Several Labour politicians have called for a new leader to be elected as soon as possible to maintain the party's political momentum ahead of the next general election, due by mid-1997.

Labour, which shed its image of a disunited party dominated by trade union power under Mr. Smith, holds a 20-point lead over Prime Minister John Major's Conservatives in opinion polls after a series of policy U-turns by the accident-prone ruling party.

All surveys on the Labour leadership showed Mr. Blair as the public's favourite.

Thirty-two per cent of those questioned in a Mori poll published in the Sunday Times supported Mr. Blair, compared with 14 per cent who wanted Margaret Beckett.

Ms. Beckett, deputy leader under Mr. Smith, has taken charge of Labour until the leadership election, almost certainly in July.

Polls in other newspapers showed Gordon Brown, Mr. Blair's friend and fellow right-winger, or John Prescott, a left-winger expected to appeal to traditional Labour voters, in second place well behind Mr. Blair.

However, a poll in the Sunday Express of 150 trade unionists entitled to vote in the leadership election revealed Mr. Blair, the "shadow" interior minister, had double the support of Mr. Prescott.

The former Soviet republic has been racked by unrest since gaining independence in 1991.

Government troops fought an unsuccessful year-long war against separatists in the breakaway Black Sea region of Abkhazia and last year only just managed to put down a rebellion by supporters of former President Zviad Gamsakhurdia.

Georgian and Abkhazian authorities signed an agreement Saturday on a ceasefire and deployment of an intervention force in the troubled separatist republic, the Russian Foreign Ministry said.

The accord, signed by both sides under mediation from Moscow, would "prevent the

Rebels destroy key Cambodian bridge

PHNOM PENH (R) — Khmer Rouge guerrillas backed by rockets and mortars launched a big attack on the northwest town of Mongkol Borey Sunday, and relief workers there said it may herald a strike at nearby Siem Reap.

Field radio messages Sunday between aid agencies in the area, shown to Reuters, said a key bridge crossing the Mongkol Borey River had been destroyed.

At least one group of rebels was said to be occupying part of the town but it was unclear if they occupied the centre. Mines were also laid around the bridge by the rebels.

"Khmer Rouge troops still bold approach roads and are covering the roundabout in Mongkol Borey with small arms fire," said a radio message from the town early Sunday.

Relief workers based in the

town said the attackers struck from the north and west in two columns shortly after midnight.

No details of casualties were given.

Mongkol Borey, about 300 kilometres northwest of Phnom Penh, lies on the strategic National Route 5 and is a base for the British Halo Trust De-mining Organisation.

An International Committee of the Red Cross hospital in the town is one of the best in Cambodia, particularly in providing new limbs for mine victims.

One relief organisation warned the attack on Mongkol Borey could be a prelude to an even bigger assault on the provincial capital Siem Reap about 15 kilometres to the northwest.

"(It is) likely that this attack (was) made as preliminary to main attack against Siem Reap

today or later tonight with aim of isolating Siem Reap and preventing or delaying RCAF (Royal Cambodian Armed Forces) ability to reinforce Siem Reap," said the message.

Khmer Rouge military commanders have said they had orders to capture the key northwest towns of Siem Reap and Poipet. A once-bustling frontier market, Poipet now resembles a ghost town after recent clashes between rebel and government forces.

In the past two months, security in the northwest has deteriorated drastically after 400 Khmer Rouge pushed a superior force of government soldiers back to within 15 kilometres of the country's second biggest city Battambang.

Most relief agencies have withdrawn all but non-essential staff from Battambang.

Big blast rips through Georgia theatre

MOSCOW (Agencies) — A powerful blast ripped through a theatre in the Georgian capital Tbilisi Sunday and it seemed likely there had been casualties, Interfax News Agency reported.

Interfax, quoting a Georgian Interior Ministry spokesman, said the blast in the Armenian drama theatre had been caused by "unidentified persons". Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze had gone to the theatre, the agency said. It was not immediately possible to contact officials in Tbilisi to confirm the report.

The former Soviet republic has been racked by unrest since gaining independence in

1991. Government troops fought an unsuccessful year-long war against separatists in the breakaway Black Sea region of Abkhazia and last year only just managed to put down a rebellion by supporters of former President Zviad Gamsakhurdia.

Georgian and Abkhazian authorities signed an agreement Saturday on a ceasefire and deployment of an intervention force in the troubled separatist republic, the Russian Foreign Ministry said.

The accord, signed by both sides under mediation from Moscow, would "prevent the

resumption of military action and facilitate the return of (Georgian) refugees to their homes," the ITAR-TASS agency quoted the ministry as saying.

The agency gave no other details on the mechanics of the accord, but sources close to the negotiations said disagreements remained over the future status of Abkhazia and conditions covering refugees, with the separatists only willing to accept the return of Georgians who took no part in the fighting.

The signing came a day after the Georgian parliament refused to ratify the accord.

U.N. meets to monitor Earth Summit agreements

NEW YORK (Agencies) — The U.N. Commission on Sustainable Development — the watchdog body set up to track progress after the Earth Summit — will get down to business here next week at its second annual session. From May 17 to 27, it will review government actions and examine innovative methods for funding sustainable development worldwide.

The 53-member commission will also look at patterns of energy production and consumption, and worldwide action on freshwater, health, human settlements, toxic chemicals and hazardous waste. Its overall mandate is to monitor implementation of Agenda 21, the global blueprint for sustainable development adopted at the Earth Summit — the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development — held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992.

"The commission will only be as good as the ability of governments to live up to their Rio commitments," stated Ambassador Razali Ismail of Malaysia, outgoing chairman

of the commission. "We must not let governments off the hook. We need non-governmental groups to ensure that those commitments are honoured." Over 100 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) — mostly environmental groups — are expected to attend the commission session as observers to keep pressure on governments.

On May 26-27, a high-level meeting — primarily of ministers of the environment and of finance — is expected to provide the political leverage necessary to resolve outstanding issues and to guide the commission's future work. Dr. Klaus Topfer, Germany's federal minister for the environment, nature conservation and nuclear safety, is expected to be elected chairman of this year's commission session.

Although the big push from Rio has slackened off, work to put the Earth Summit's recommendations into action has been making steady progress worldwide. Governments — as well as businesses and international agencies — have been

sensitised to the need for sustainable development, although some countries require more financial and technical assistance than others to bring such change about.

In reviewing progress, the commission will consider reports from governments and U.N. agencies. Although most countries have accepted the need to report in principle, just 35 governments have submitted reports this year. The commission is expected to streamline the reporting process, which many find too cumbersome.

Underlying the U.N. agency reports is the idea that for sustainable development to occur, radical changes in programme formulation and funding will be necessary. "A common understanding of sustainable development does not exist" among the agencies, states a report prepared by the World Health Organisation (WHO). "Consequently there is a strong risk that the revolutionary changes called for by Agenda 21 will rapidly be lost sight of."

Settlements (Habitat) notes that most agencies are continuing with established work priorities. The centre recommends that the commission consider financial incentives to reward multi-agency programmes in support of Agenda 21. This would encourage inter-agency cooperation, joint programming and the pooling of resources, and would also prevent duplication.

Climate change and biodiversity conventions, the two legal agreements opened for signing in Rio, have both entered into force — an unprecedented pace for international law. The Framework Convention on Climate Change, which aims to prevent global warming and climate change, became legally binding on March 21, 1994 and has been ratified by 71 countries. Developed country commitments under the treaty — and the effectiveness of efforts to limit greenhouse gas emissions — will be reviewed in March 1995 when the conference of parties, responsible for overseeing implementation of the convention, holds its first session in Berlin.

Clinton appeals against violence

INDIANAPOLIS (R) — President Bill Clinton, recalling civil rights leaders Robert Kennedy, Reverend Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela, worried Saturday about a fortress-like "freedom of the 90s" in the United States.

In his weekly radio address, delivered from Mount Helm Missionary Baptist Church, near where Mr. Kennedy announced the assassination of Rev. King in April 1968, Mr. Clinton told of a Washington D.C. housing project who banded together to keep drug dealers and gangs out with guards and a fence.

One resident called the solution "the freedom of the 90s," Mr. Clinton said.

While Mr. Clinton said he applauded the residents' refusal to be tyrannised, he added, "I wonder what it says about our country and our democracy when freedom has come to mean that we barricade our children from the outside world in order to protect them from harm, that we install floodlights and foot patrols in the backyards of our homes to feel secure."

"That isn't the kind of freedom our forefathers conceived of 200 years ago not the kind of freedom that Martin Luther King and Bobby Kennedy gave their lives for not the kind of freedom Nelson Mandela dreamed of in a land newly introduced to democracy and looking to us for support," he said.

Noting the upcoming anniversaries of the D-Day allied invasion of Normandy and the Supreme Court's landmark civil rights decision Brown versus Board of Education which opened the way to desegregating schools, Mr. Clinton urged Americans to "find within ourselves the courage to overcome old animosities that get in freedom's way."

After the address, Mr. Clinton attended a groundbreaking ceremony near the church for a memorial to Mr. Kennedy and Rev. King. Some of the material in the memorial will be provided by melted-down guns surrendered in a programme sponsored by the Indiana Pacers pro basketball team.

Rev. King's sons, Dexter and Martin Luther King III, attended the ceremony, along with Senator Edward Kennedy, Ethel Kennedy, Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds and Ireland's ambassador to the United States Dermot Gallagher.

Mr. Clinton later addressed a Democratic Party fundraising luncheon where he decried the "shrill, uncivil, diversionary rhetoric" that he said too often characterises the national political debate.

He said it was especially evident in the bitter controversies over health care reform and banning assault weapons

Taiwan continues China boycott, urges new talk

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan said it would maintain its boycott on group tours to China after its fence-meeting team failed to clarify doubts about the boat fire that killed 24 Taiwanese tourists there.

Yen Chin-Feng, vice chairman of the cabinet's Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) which formulates policies toward China, told reporters a boycott on China tours and a suspension of bilateral exchanges would continue after the return of the fact-finding delegation.

Taiwan also repeated its request to hold a new round of talks with Beijing on safety for travellers.

The delegation, comprising forensic experts, retired police officers and relatives of Taiwanese victims, ended a one-week visit in China Saturday. It said it did not get answers to more than 200 questions about the March 31 deaths of the 24 Taiwanese on a pleasure boat on Qiondao Lake in China's coastal Zhejiang province.

"We were not there to handle the case, but neither were we with our eyes closed, listening to what mainland China claimed as the truth," delegation head Shi Hwei-Yow told

reporters when the group returned to Taipei Saturday night.

"It's apparent that the mainland spent great manpower and materials on the reception and arrangements while we were there, but in fact there were still concealments and arbitrariness in the handling (of the case)," said Mr. Shi, deputy secretary-general of Taiwan's negotiation body Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF).

The deaths have pushed delicate relations between the two sides, rivals since the Chinese civil war ended in 1949, to the lowest ebb since tensions began to ease in the last 1980s.

China arrested three men for the arson attack and a fourth as an accomplice but Taiwan remains sceptical of the probe as its intelligence reports say a group of Chinese soldiers were involved in the attack. China has denied the allegations.

"We hope to heal the wounds and stop the pain... but during the visit, we still found doubts and we hope the mainland will face those important doubts raised by the SEF delegation and further investigate into the case," said Mr. Yen.

Senator: Crucial part of Clinton health reform dead

WILLIAMSBURG, Va (R) — A key Republican senator said Saturday that a crucial part of President Bill Clinton's health reform plan requiring employers to pay most of their workers' health insurance will not pass Congress.

"I support mandates, but I am afraid the mandate is dead," Senator Bob Packwood, an Oregon Republican, told reporters.

President Clinton had proposed the so-called employer mandate as a way to provide health care benefits for the 39 million Americans who lack insurance.

Mr. Clinton proposed that employers pay 80 per cent of the cost while workers pay the rest. Mr. Clinton threatened to veto any legislation that does not guarantee health benefits to all Americans.

But the mandate issue has run into stiff opposition from small business, and members of the National Federation of Independent Business have been lobbying lawmakers hard against the proposed mandate.

Some lawmakers have suggested requiring individuals to buy health insurance, but Sen. Packwood said that idea did not have enough support in Congress to be enacted either.

Congress is now drafting its version of Mr. Clinton's health care reform plan. All sides acknowledge that support from Republicans is essential in the Senate where they have enough votes to block any plan they do not like.

Republicans have been strongly opposed to elements of Mr. Clinton's plan, including employer mandates, and

their views are likely to be reflected in the bill that eventually emerges from the finance committee.

Sen. Packwood, the ranking Republican member of the Senate Finance Committee, talked to reporters after speaking about health reform behind closed doors to the Business Council, an elite group of corporate executives.

Senator Nancy Kassebaum, a Republican from Kansas who also spoke to the executives in this historic Virginia town, said she thought it would be difficult for Congress to pass complex health reform legislation before they break in the autumn congressional elections.

"If I had to look at a crystal ball at this point, I'd say we're not going to get it," said Sen. Kassebaum, a member of the Senate Labour and Human Resources Committee which is set to begin drafting its version of health legislation this week. But administration officials, who also met with the executives this weekend, said they are optimistic that reform legislation will pass Congress this year.

"It may be very late in the session, but there will be legislation," Deputy Treasury Secretary Roger Altman told reporters.

Robert Rubin, head of the White House council to coordinate economic policy, said lawmakers will not want to face voters without having passed health reform legislation.

He said that the White House believes "the probability is still good that we will get legislation."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rominger wins Tour of Spain

MADRID (R) — Switzerland's Toni Rominger won a record third consecutive Tour of Spain, finishing ahead overall after the 3,568-kilometre 21-stage race which ended in Madrid Sunday. Spain's Mikel Zarrabeitia and Pedro Delgado were second and third overall respectively. The final 166-kilometre stage from Segovia was won by Laurent Jalabert of France.

Turtle streaks to victory

DUBLIN (AFP) — Turtle Island swept to a convincing 15-length victory in the Irish 2,000 Guineas at the Curragh Sunday, just a week after being narrowly beaten in France's mile Classic. Settled in last place by John Reid, Turtle Island cruised up to the leaders two furlongs out. Guided Tour caught Ridgewood Ben for second on the line. Trainer Peter Chapple-Hyam said: "He didn't get the rub of the green in France and perhaps I had been too easy on him. I knew he would come on for the race. But he is some horse — as good as I have ever trained."

North Flight wins Tokyo race

TOKYO (AFP) — North Flight with Kouichi Tsunoda in the saddle led a Japanese one-two finish with Towa Darling to win the 1,600-metres (one mile) Yasuda Memorial race here Sunday. The four-year-old bay filly put ahead in the final furlong and crossed the finishing line in one minute 33.2 seconds, two lengths and a half ahead of Towa Darling. French colt Dolphin Street, ridden by American Cash Assmusen, came third followed by Japan's Sakura Bakushin in fourth on the rainy Tokyo Racecourse. Pre-race favourite Ski Paradise, the winner at the Keio Spring Cup three weeks ago, could not keep the momentum as the French filly finished fifth with top Japanese jockey Yutaka Take in the saddle.

Yoma stops British challenger

CAYENNE, French Guiana (AFP) — France's Jacobin Yoma kept his European Boxing Union super-featherweight title here Saturday night after stopping British challenger Neil Haddock in the seventh round. Haddock's corner threw in the towel after their man was comprehensively outpunched by the 28-year-old Frenchman fighting before his home crowd. The Englishman had also suffered badly from the stifling heat. Yoma was making the third defence of a title he won in June, 1993 with a points win here over Dutchman Regilio Tuur.

Rattanaporn retains IBF title

BANGKOK (AFP) — Thailand's Rattanaporn Sor Vorapin retained his International Boxing Federation (IBF) straw-weight title Saturday after knocking out challenger Roger Espanola. Rattanaporn floored the ninth-ranked Filipino in the sixth round of the scheduled 12-round bout in the central Thai province of Saraburi.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
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GETTING TO THE HEART OF THE MATTER

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ J 8 6
♥ Q 7 2
♦ K Q 6 3 2
♣ A 8

EAST
♠ 10 7
♥ K 9 6 4
♦ 8 5
♣ A 9 6 4 3

SOUTH
♠ A K Q 5 3 2
♥ 10 5 3
♦ J 9
♣ K J

The bidding:
South: 1♣, 2♦, 3♥, 4♠, 5♥, 6♠, 7♠.
North: 1♦, 2♥, 3♠, 4♠, 5♥, 6♠, 7♠.
Pass.

Opening lead: Ace of ♠.

You are beginning to master the art of defense when you see the need to switch the attack to a particular suit. You have mastered it when you can select the correct card in the suit to lead.

North-South conducted a routine auction to what turned out to be a shaky game because of the wasted values in clubs. Make the king of clubs the king of hearts and the

contract would be laydown. With nothing in the auction to act as a guide, West chose to fire away with the ace of clubs. The sight of dummy made two things obvious: There was no future in a club continuation; and unless the defenders could score some tricks in a hurry, the contract would be easy, since the diamond suit offered a rich source of discards.

It did not take a genius to work out that the only suit that offered prospects of tricks was hearts. So West shifted to the ace of hearts and continued with the jack in the hope of finding partner with the K 10. Declarer covered with the table's queen and the defenders were limited to two heart tricks and a club.

West's analysis was on the right track, but did not go far enough. The contract could be defeated if East held either the 10 or 9 of hearts in addition to the king, as long as West shifts to the jack of hearts at trick two.

Declarer must cover and East captures the queen with the king. When a heart is returned, declarer's 10 is trapped by West's A. 8. Down one!

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Schumacher captures Monaco Grand Prix

MONACO (AFP) — Germany's Michael Schumacher swept to his fourth victory of the Formula One season here Sunday in a Monaco Grand Prix which was won and lost within the opening seconds.

Schumacher, who has won every race this year, came home clear of Britain's Martin Brundle in the McLaren-Peugeot and Austrian veteran Gerhard Berger in the Ferrari.

The race, still overshadowed by Formula One's recent tragedies, made a dramatic start when Damon Hill's Williams-Renault slipped into the back of the other McLaren, driven by Mika Hakkinen, forcing both men out.

The low-speed accident came just after the green light as both men plunged into the first bend after Schumacher in the Benetton-Ford.

Drivers, officials and motorsport fans had been praying for an accident-free race on this relatively slow street circuit, following Karl Wendlinger's crash here on Thursday which has left the Austrian in a deep coma.

The legendary race is also the first since Hill's teammate Ayrton Senna and Roland Ratzenberger were killed in crashes at the San Marino

Grand Prix two weeks ago. Schumacher, now almost certain to win this year's world championship, led from start to finish while the two Ferraris of Berger and Jean Alesi scrapped with Christian Fittipaldi in the Fortwork-Ford in the early stages.

With so few opportunities to overtake on the winding streets of the Principality, the places tended to change only with pit-stops for refuelling or a pit-statement with mechanical problems.

Among those challengers to fall by the wayside were Britain's Mark Blundell in the Tyrrell-Yamaha and Brazilian Rubens Barrichello in the Jordan Hart.

Blundell's bad luck was also shared by Berger, whose car spun round after hitting a patch of oil left by the blown engine on the Englishman's Tyrrell, costing him a second place.

By the halfway stage, Schumacher was half a minute clear of Brundle, with Berger third and Alesi fourth. Fittipaldi's change ended with two thirds of the race gone when he retired, thereby bringing Barrichello's Italian teammate Andrea de Cesaris into the fray.

Jazz take 3-0 lead; Pacers pound Hawks

DENVER (R) — The Utah Jazz, led by their brilliant backcourt duo, beat the Denver Nuggets 111-109 in overtime Saturday to take a commanding three games to none lead in their Western Conference semifinal series.

John Stockton scored Utah's last six points in overtime and combined with fellow-guard Jeff Hornacek to score all but two of the Jazz total in the extra period.

In the Eastern Conference semifinals at Indianapolis, the top-seeded Atlanta Hawks were routed 101-81 by the Indiana Pacers, who took a two-games to one lead in their series.

Indiana rebounded from an all-time NBA playoff low of 69 points in a loss to the Hawks in Atlanta Thursday. Centre Rick Smith led the way with 27 points, 18 in the first half.

Hornacek led the Jazz with 27 points, including five in overtime. Stockton finished with 24 points to help bring Utah within one win of reaching the conference finals for only the second time in franchise history.

"We're thinking 'next game' now," said Stockton. "A sweep I don't know about. I don't care if we win by 20, by one, or by one-half. Denver won't give up. They are a hungry and talented team."

"I think Utah may be the smartest team in the NBA," said Nuggets coach Dan Issel. "It takes them one trip down the floor to figure out adjustments. Stockton and Hornacek are so smart and they don't turn the ball over."

Hornacek's three-point jumper with 1:40 left in overtime gave Utah a 105-102 lead. After a basket by Denver's Laphonso Ellis, Stockton hit a jumper to restore the three-point edge.

The Nuggets pulled within 107-106 when Mahmoud Abdul Rauf hit an off-balance shot with 42 seconds left. Stockton again bugged a jumper with 30.2 seconds left.

Abdul Rauf answered with a basket five seconds later to bring Denver within a point yet again at 109-108.

Stockton was fouled and converted both free throws with 9.2 seconds left to make it 111-108. Denver's Rodney Rogers was fouled attempting a three-point shot with 4.8 seconds remaining. He hit the first free throw and intentionally missed the second but Denver grabbed the rebound.

The Jazz forced the overtime when Karl Malone bit a 22-foot jumper with 9.2 seconds left in regulation to tie the game at 98-98. Malone, who fouled out in the final seconds of overtime, had 26 points and 13 rebounds.

"You have to give Denver an awful lot of credit," said Malone. "They played their butts off."

The Nuggets had a chance to win in the closing seconds of regulation, but Robert Pack missed a short jumper in the lane.

Ellis scored 18 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter and overtime to lead Denver. Abdul Rauf and Dikembe Mutombo had 20 points apiece for the Nuggets.



Graf wins Berlin Open

BERLIN (AFP) — Steffi Graf retained her German Open title — her eighth in nine years — with a 7-6 (8/6) 6-4 victory over Brenda Schultz here Sunday.

It was Graf's 20th consecutive final since March 1993, and her 16th victory — and ample warning to her rivals a week before the French Open.

For Schultz it was the biggest final of her career, and her serve, the fastest in women's tennis, forced several errors from Graf.

But the world number one seed was quicker around court and made less unforced errors. She failed to break, however, during the first set, with Schultz having the best chance at 3-3 when she took Graf to deuce.

A backhand in the net and a wide return let Graf off the hook that time before Schultz survived a similar scare at 6-5 with an ace to take early control in the following tiebreak.

The Dutch girl's 3-0 lead was pegged back to 4-4 before Schultz missed a set point at 6-5 by netting a backhand.

That gave Graf the chance to produce a perfect backhand return down the line to take the set and she broke for a 2-1 lead in the second, a lead she never lost.

Graf received a cheque for \$150,000, and 11th seeded Schultz receiving \$60,000.

Sampras crushes Becker in the Italian Open final

ROME (R) — World number one Pete Sampras took the Italian Open title when he condemned triple Wimbledon champion Boris Becker to a humiliating 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 defeat Sunday.

Playing his first clay court tournament of the season, Sampras took his winning streak to 27 matches as Becker's game came apart at the seams.

The German, who has never won a title on clay, needed to be at his best if he were to deny Sampras a seventh title this year but consistently failed to land his first service in.

Sampras, seeking to play his way into form on his least favourite surface ahead of the French Open which begins May 23, gave Becker no respite after racing into a 5-0 lead and taking the first set in 35 minutes.

He broke Becker again in the opening game of the second set and repeated the

trick in the seventh game of another set lasting little over half an hour.

Becker, shouting at himself in anger and frustration, lost his serve again in the first game of the final set and there was no way back on the hottest day in Rome this year.

Sampras's performance — giving him only the second title of his career on clay — was ideal preparation for Roland Garros where he will seek to become the first man since Rod Laver in 1969 to win four successive Grand Slam titles.

"He was making mistakes left and right and I just tried to keep the ball in play," Sampras said.

"I struggled a little bit earlier in the week but now I feel confident going into the French Open. I feel pretty good about my tennis," added Sampras with typical understatement after his win in one hour 52 minutes.

Becker, who enjoyed great

backing from the Roman fans at the Foro Italico, was philosophical in defeat.

"I didn't expect to make the final in this tournament but with the fans' help I had one of my best clay court tournaments ever," he said.

"I'm only sorry that I didn't give you a better Sunday afternoon."

Becker will be wondering how he managed to land only just over one-third of his first services in after serving volleying so confidently all week.

It was his fourth clay court final and all have ended in defeat. "I woke up this morning feeling tired. This was perhaps one match too many for me this week."

He will be consoled by a runners-up cheque for \$147,000 and enough ranking points to restore him to the top 10 for the first time since November last year.

Werder, Auxerre win cup titles; Barcelona snatch Spanish league

FAVOURITES Werder Bremen lifted the German Cup here by beating second division side Rot-Weiss 3-1 Saturday in Berlin.

Last year's Bundesliga champions, who finished a disappointing eighth this season, salvaged their campaign after forging 2-0 clear by the break through Dietmar Beiersdorfer (17th minute) and Austrian Andreas Herzog (38th).

Kwi Wynnton Ruffer sealed the win with a penalty after Rot-Weiss had pulled a goal back after 50 minutes.

Bremen, the 1992 European Cup Winners' Cup holders, have reached the German final four times in five years and

won the trophy in 1991, 30 years after their only other triumph.

Meanwhile, Auxerre, the little Burgundy club which launched Eric Cantona's career, won their first major trophy when they beat Montpellier 3-0 in the French Cup final Saturday.

Auxerre profited from two Montpellier defensive blunders to score a goal early in each half from Algerian midfielder Moussa Saib and Gerald Badile and wrapped things up with a late goal by Corentin Martins.

But the biggest cheer of the evening from the 45,000 crowd at the Parc des Princes was reserved for the news that Cantona had scored twice to give

Manchester United the English (see separate story).

Both sets of fans have good reason to revere the French hero. Apart from starting his career with Auxerre, Cantona won the French Cup with Montpellier in 1990.

Montpellier, fielding a young side with seven players aged 23 or under and no survivors from the 1990 team, fought gamely but were no match for a well-drilled Auxerre outfit.

In Madrid, Deportivo Coruna missed a penalty a minute before the end of their last match of the season to hand a fourth consecutive Spanish League championship to Barcelona Saturday.

United finally earn their place in exclusive club

LONDON (R) — Manchester United joined the most exclusive club in British soccer Saturday, 37 years after having the door slammed in their face.

Their 4-0 victory over Chelsea in the Football Association (F.A.) Cup final means they are only the sixth club ever to achieve the English cup and league double in the same season, and only the fourth one to do so in this century.

In less competitive days Preston won the league without losing a match and the cup without conceding a goal in 1889 and Aston Villa won both honours in 1897.

Until Saturday only Tottenham Hotspur (1961), Arsenal (1971) and Liverpool (1986) had done the same this century.

But for an ill-fated challenge, Manchester United could well have become the first 20th century double winners back in 1957.

As Alex Ferguson's team has done this season, manager Matt Busby's "Busby babes" came to the cup final having won a second successive league championship just as this year, their opponents had had an ordinary season finishing in mid-table.

But Aston Villa prevented Manchester United emulating their own ancient double achievement.

The turning-point in the

1957 final came after only six minutes when Villa's Irish international forward Peter McParland clattered into United's goalkeeper Ray Wood who fractured his cheekbone.

There were no substitutes in those days and United centre-half Jackie Blanchflower went in goal as Wood limped away.

United held Villa for an hour but two second-half goals from McParland swung the match Villa's way, a late consolation from Tommy Taylor proving too little, too late for the champions.

Nine months later six of the side faced Villa — captain Roger Byrne, Eddie Coleman, Duncan Edwards, Bill Whelan, Tommy Taylor and David Pegg — were killed in the Munich air crash. Club mates Mark Jones and Geoff Bent also died and Blanchflower and Johnny Berry never played again.

United never went close to the double again until this season and indeed the generally accepted view in the late 1950s was that the demands of English soccer were too great for any side to win both major honours in the same season.

In 1961 Tottenham proved everyone wrong. Ironically, Spurs were inspired by skipper Danny Blanchflower, Jackie Blanchflower's brother.

Blanchflower's guile and intelligence, coupled with Dave

MacKay's aggression and John White's vision swept Tottenham to victory after victory in a record-breaking season.

They opened with a record run of 11 straight wins. They won 31 of their 42 matches including 16 away from home and scored 115 goals in the league which clinched as early as March 18.

More than three decades later they are still regarded as one of the finest English club sides of all time.

On the afternoon of May 6 1961 they beat Leicester City 2-0 in a relatively disappointing final and ensured their place as the first double winners of the 20th century.

Many doubted the double would ever be achieved again. But in that beaten Leicester team was a young man who would follow in Blanchflower's footsteps 10 years later.

Frank McLintock, who left Leicester for Arsenal in 1964, bad, by 1971, developed into a fine international defender and an inspiring leader.

But where their arch-rivals Tottenham had swept imperiously to the double in 1961, Arsenal battled through matches, winning by a goal or two, showing grit and resilience, very different qualities from those that had taken Spurs to glory.

At the end of the 1970-71 league season they went to Tottenham, of all places, needing a victory to win the title and did just that with a Ray Kennedy header two minutes from time. They tipped Leeds for the title by a single point.

Five days later they came from behind to beat Liverpool 2-1 in the cup final with extra-time goals from Eddie Kelly and Charlie George.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Gazans now face more bureaucracy

GAZA CITY, occupied Gaza Strip (AFP) — After years of struggling with the occupying army to obtain passes to enter Israel, Gazans learned Sunday they would now have to go through the new Palestinian police first. "Requests will have to be made in our offices for our approval and then be handed on to the Israeli army for their approval," a senior Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) official told AFP. Palestinians were not looking forward to the double procedure. "Before I used to call the military administration and an army patrol would accompany the Israeli lorry carrying gas bottles to my factory in Deir Al Balah," said factory owner Mohammad Al Tilbani. However, since Palestinian police took charge of the area last week the deliveries have had to stop. "So now I have to go and fetch gas myself from Israel. But when I called the military administration, I was told from now on to go through the Palestinian police. I made my request but they told me they were too busy deploying policemen in different barracks and to come back tomorrow. I don't know how they will function in the future. All I know is that I have 85 workers who have nothing to do and a Muslim holiday starts on Saturday. If we don't work now, people will buy Israeli cakes and our economy will collapse."

Vehicles for Palestinian police reach Egypt

PORT SAID (R) — Dozens of U.S. trucks and jeeps donated to Palestinian police to help them maintain order in Gaza and Jericho arrived in Egypt on Sunday, officials said. They said the 176 vehicles were unloaded at Port Said from containers and handed over to Egyptian authorities, who will deliver them to the Palestinian police force. Palestinian officials in Cairo said the vehicles would be sent immediately to the self-rule areas of Gaza and Jericho, but their deployment had to be coordinated with the entry of Palestinian police arriving from bases in Yemen and Libya. Palestinian police have already assumed responsibility for law and order in the West Bank town of Jericho and are taking over in stages in the Gaza Strip. The United States airlifted the first batch of 24 vehicles last month to help meet the immediate needs of the police force. The total U.S. donation comprises 600 pick-up trucks, 50 utility vehicles and 50 two-and-a-half-ton trucks. Another 56 vehicles donated by Greece are expected in Egypt within the next few days.

Yasser Arafat to visit Norway

OSLO (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat will attend a ceremony on Wednesday honouring Norway for its role in brokering the historic Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace accord, the foreign ministry said on Sunday. Israeli Television reported that Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres would also attend the ceremony in Norway, hosted by the Carter-Menil Human Rights Foundation. On Wednesday the foundation, set up by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Dominique de Menil, will unveil a sculpture dedicated to the Norwegian people and hand a cheque of \$500,000 to the Norwegian Institute of Applied Social Science.

Libyans on camel-back join Mecca pilgrims

JEDDAH (AFP) — Some 400 Libyan Muslims have arrived on camel-back in Tabuk, northwest Saudi Arabia, for the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, the Organisations of the Islamic Conference said here Sunday. The caravan of 350 camels was welcomed at the Saudi border by Tabuk leaders who helped to arrange the trip. The pilgrims decided to travel to Islam's holiest sites by camel to protest the U.N. air embargo on Libya imposed in April 1992 after Tripoli refused to hand over suspects in bombings of U.S. and French airliners. They left Libya in April and crossed through Egypt and Jordan before arriving in Saudi Arabia. From Tabuk, they left for Medina and Mecca, again by camel. Almost one million pilgrims from across the world have already arrived in Mecca for the pilgrimage, the highlight of which will be on Friday when they climb Mount Arafat, the official Saudi agency SPA said Sunday. Last year more than two million people took part in the pilgrimage.

Mutual respect basis for stand on self-rule — Hamas

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has announced it will respect the authority of the Palestinian National Security Forces (PNSF) and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) as long as the two bodies respect the rights and freedoms of groups which oppose the peace process, a leading spokesman of Hamas said Sunday.

"We will respect and show reasonable cooperation with the PNSF and the PNA provided that they respect the rights and freedoms of all Palestinians regardless of their political affiliation," Ibrahim Ghosheh, the Jordan-based spokesman of Hamas, told the Jordan Times.

Hamas regards the PNSF as a Palestinian police force while it considers the PNA still being formed by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, to be a Fatah-dominated group of leaders.

"The police force represents all the Palestinians. Every policeman has a brother or cousin who is Hamas, or belongs to one of the opposition groups. Thus this police force is 'ours' so to speak," said Mr. Ghosheh in an interview in his Abdali office.

Toning down rhetoric, Mr. Ghosheh said that Hamas members and supporters would continue to "fight" the Israeli occupation but "could" do so in the confines of popular resistance through "speeches and rallies," if "reasonable behaviour towards the Palestinian authorities" would create a positive atmosphere in Gaza and Jericho.

But the Jericho-Gaza first formula, in particular the Cairo agreement, said Mr. Ghosheh, is "bound for failure."

Mr. Ghosheh said Hamas would not participate in legislative elections tentatively scheduled for October. "If we don't accept the concept of autonomy and the PNA we can't accept the legitimacy of a legislature elected to represent such an authority," he said. The movement would, however, field candidates to municipal and union elections everywhere in Gaza, Jericho and the rest of the occupied territories.

"We only reserve our right not to run for posts directly related to the self-rule authority," said Mr. Ghosheh.

"Hopefully the failure of this experiment will lead the people back to the path of armed resistance, which is the only one with a chance for ultimate success."

While not explicitly stating Hamas' desire that the self-rule experience should fail, Mr. Ghosheh said: "We don't want it to fail but it will because its base is unjust and weak."

The Hamas spokesman along with fellow Hamas official Mohammad Nazzari, had his passport "kept for his own security" by the Jordanian Ministry of Interior after Israel verbally attacked Jordan for harbouring Hamas "terrorists."

On Sunday he said his movement would continue armed resistance until all of Palestine is liberated from non-Muslim rule.

But, according to Mr. Ghosheh, Hamas "will not continue to target Israeli civilians as it did in attacks on Israeli buses in Afula and Hadira, following the Hebron massacre."

The circumstance of Afula and Hadira were different from the ones surrounding our usual resistance against the occupation. Israel bit our people as they knelt for prayer. They had to feel the pain that we felt, to know that this is wrong," Mr. Ghosheh said.

"Our targets have almost been soldiers or illegal settlers and they will continue to be our primary targets," added Mr. Ghosheh.

King and Queen visit Jubilee School

AMMAN (J.T.) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor on Sunday visited the Jubilee School, as its first year was coming to a close, to congratulate the first class of pioneering students.

The Jubilee School is an independent four-year, co-educational secondary school for outstanding scholarship students from rural and urban areas. The Jubilee School Project was announced in 1977 as a tribute to King Hussein's development efforts, especially in the field of education. In 1984, Queen Noor accepted a request by the prime minister to assume responsibility for the project, and in 1985, when the Noor Al Hussein Foundation was established, the school became one of its priority projects.

The Jubilee School is dedicated to the development of the intellect and leadership potential of Jordanian students with special emphasis on students from underprivileged areas of the country.

In the future, the school will offer boarding facilities and it will be opened to outstanding

students from other Arab countries. The school helps set national standards of excellence in education by providing its students with a highly trained staff, modern laboratories, workshops and classrooms, and career counselling and community service opportunities. The school's innovative educational approach encourages the students' active and creative involvement in all aspects of their education. Classes emphasise discussion and debate of social, political and global issues.

The school's Centre for Excellence in Education carries out research, conducts public and private teacher training programmes and workshops, and produces educational material to help meet the needs of exceptional students in their regular classrooms. This centre cooperates with the Ministry of Education to transfer the Jubilee School experience to other schools in Jordan. It is hoped that the school's graduating students will return to their local communities after further training or higher education to assume



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor, accompanied by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Sunday visit the Jubilee School (Petra photo)

leadership roles. King Hussein and Queen Noor also visited the school's computer laboratory and library and science laboratory.

Receiving the King and Queen were Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Senator Leila

Sharaf, Dr. Bassam Al Saket, Mrs. Nour Izzedine and Dr. Fathi Jarwan, director of the school.

King sends message to Tunisia

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Sataam Al Hassan arrived in Tunis on Sunday on a three-day official visit.

Mr. Hassan will meet with Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali to convey to him a written message from His Majesty King Hussein.

Mr. Hassan said he will also meet with other Tunisian officials for talks.

Britain says it always urged end to Aqaba siege

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Britain did not take part in the U.S.-led blockade of Aqaba and had always urged its allies to end the inspection of ships in the Gulf of Aqaba, James Watt, the charge d'affaires at the British embassy, said Sunday.

"My country has always been pressing for the ban to be lifted," Mr. Watt told a business luncheon.

On April 25, the United States said it has accepted a Jordanian proposal on a new

land-based system for verifying compliance with the international sanctions, and His Majesty King Hussein said the Aqaba siege was being lifted, after meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in London.

Mr. Christopher told reporters at a joint press conference with King Hussein that the U.S. had accepted the proposal to have the London-based Lloyd's Register verify Aqaba-bound cargo once it is unloaded in the port instead of the sea-inspections, which have caused the Kingdom

enormous economic losses.

The American decision was followed by a French announcement it was withdrawing from the international forces inspecting the Aqaba-bound shipping.

The U.S. confirmation that the siege was being lifted came on May 9, when Washington officially informed Jordan of its acceptance of the Kingdom's proposal.

"We were never part of the inspection groups, and Britain never supported the inspection from the beginning," Mr. Watt said.

Addressing a group of business people, Mr. Watt said the new process was a sign of optimism for the Jordanian economy, adding that Jordan has become a market which all industries are looking at.

"We are beginning to see some signs of hope after the peace process, and people are looking towards a bright future, making Jordan a very attractive market," he added.

Mr. Watt said Britain's policy was to encourage the Jordanian market, and to open up other markets in the region, "including Israel."

Poets and writers fight over possible 'normalisation' of Arab-Israeli relations

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A war of words is being fought in Jordanian intellectual circles over the ramifications of making peace with Israel especially on Arab culture and identity. Since the Madrid conference of October 1991 and more recently the signing of the Oslo accord in September 1993, many writers, in anticipation of or in reaction to developments of the Arab-Israeli peace process, have been incessantly warning of the dangers of "normalisation" on Arab culture and identity.

While many outspoken Jordanian writers say that relations with Israel, particularly cultural ties, should not be "normalised," even if and when formal peace is achieved, the public at large is at a loss over what "normalisation" means.

For the "rejectionist" writers, normalisation, or the process of transforming confrontation with an enemy state into neighbourly ties, has become a key word to differentiate between a "patriot" and a "traitor."

During recent elections of professional unions and writers associations, daily and weekly columnists tried to influence the outcome of the polls by labelling candidates as pro- or anti-normalisation.

Forewarning of an "imminent Zionist cultural invasion," those writers threw their weight behind what they regarded as the anti-normalisation candidates.

The other side, those who believed in a just peace settlement with Israel were hardly saying a word. Their reaction to the campaigns was generally weak and fragmented, thus enabling the hardliners to win their electioneering battles.

But it was not until a prominent Arab writer and poet, Adonis, who is accused of promoting normalisation thinking, was invited to the upcoming Jerash Festival that a lively debate was sparked over whether opening channels of dialogue with Israeli intellectuals can be considered as normalisation or not.

In a statement issued last month, General Union of Arab Writers (GUAW) President Fakhri Kassar, a former Jordanian deputy, called on the organisers of the festival to reverse its decision to in-

AMMAN — Eight political parties and prominent Jordanian personalities Sunday announced the formation of the "Popular Arab and Jordanian Committee for Resisting Normalisation and Normalisation."

"The committee will mainly depend on the support it can get from the public," prominent writer Bahjat Abu Gharbi told a press conference held at the office of Islamic deputies. "If the committee were able to attract wide public support for its declared objectives, then the committee will be able to ensure, for example, a boycott of any Jordanian-Zionist establishment of relations."

According to Mr. Abo Gharbi, the committee's main objective will be based on two principles: "Confrontation of accords leading to normalisation of relations between Jordan and Israel, particularly calls for establishing a Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli confederation, and enhancing coordination with all national, Islamic and Arab democratic forces."

The committee intends to promote its message to the public by issuing a publication to explain the "dangers of the Zionist entity," holding seminars, lectures and festivals, and calling on politicians, businessmen and intellectuals to boycott Zionist institutions.

The committee consists of the Jordanian Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party, the Jordanian Democratic Socialist Party, the Jordanian People's Democratic Party, the Jordanian Communist Party, the Jordanian Democratic Arab Party, the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party, the Islamic Action Front and the Arab Action Front. It includes prominent personalities as former Deputy Leith Shbeilat, who is also a founder of the Anti-Zionism and Anti-Racism Society, Lawyer Hani Dahleh, and writer Muwafiq Mahaddin (S.K.).

Shbeilat's statement said. "It is a well-known fact that this poet is promoting normalisation with the Zionist enemy and had already met with Zionist writers in the cultural Granada meeting."

On behalf of the Jordanian Engineers Association, Mr. Shbeilat, a former deputy and president of the newly founded Anti-Zionism Society, condemned the invitation and called on the organisers to take the appropriate measures to cancel it.

Those writers rose to the defence of Adonis argued that opening channels of dialogue with their Israeli counterparts should not be considered as normalisation.

What is really considered as normalisation and is threatening the Arab culture and identity, they believe, is the modification of Jordanian school curricula that formal peace is widely expected to introduce into Arab countries' pedagogic systems.

Another writer, Fakhri Saleh, also criticised the controversy over Adonis, but stressed the need to draw up effective cultural policies to confront any Israeli cultural invasion against the Arabs.

"It is not possible that a great Arab poet's name should be ignored just because he attended the Granada conference or any other conference," Mr. Saleh said. "If we were against normalisation then we should draw up a clear programme against it and discuss with Adonis and others how to fortify the region against falling prey to the Israeli monstrosity."

Mr. Saleh went on to criticise Arab intellectuals who are using cultural issues to advance their political agendas, saying this amounted to cultural terrorism that will have its negative implications on the progress of the Arab countries as a whole.

"This cultural terrorism generates another cultural terrorism that will become an oppressive instrument on creativity which is dangerous to the development of the societies and can lead to catastrophes," he warned.

Although they projected different analyses of the future cultural policies Arab countries should adopt, writers who share Mr. Saleh's viewpoint contended that the real ailment of Arab countries is the absence of clear and progressive Arab cultural policies.

The real danger to the Arab spirit, personality and

culture is the absence of Arab cultural policies," writer Ibrahim Absi said. "The elite and the intellectuals should be at the avant-garde of drafting national and progressive cultural policies that is solid in nature and can confront looming dangers."

Nationalist writer Hayat Attiyeh said: "Not the Arab writers union and not all of the Arabs can stop cultural invasions...but each of us (writers) should form lobbying groups by themselves to upgrade the local performance in a way that would make us immune from these invasions."

Another writer, Laila Hmoud, said: "Normalisation cannot be achieved by a stroke of a pen or a decision; the people themselves are the ones to decide whether normalisation is a necessity or not."

The row among writers in Jordan naturally did not escape the attention of Adonis who resides in Paris. The poet wrote an article refuting accusations against him.

In that article, Adonis sought to refute all the accusations levelled against him and scolded the Arab Writers Union by saying that he could not hold dialogue with "ignorance."

The London-based Al Hayat newspaper published Adonis' article together with a short speech that the poet made at the Granada meeting with Israeli writers. In that speech Adonis poses a question to the Israelis: "Will Israel give Judaism a cultural dimension that would make it fit within its geographical environment?"

Unlike Adonis and the rest of Jordanian writers, the Palestinian-Israeli novelist Emile Habibi, who won Israel's highest literary award in 1992, was the most forthcoming writer on his defence of normalisation.

Habibi, who until he accepted the Israeli award in 1992 was the darling of Arab intellectuals for his deep portrayal of Palestinian suffering in Israel, accused the Jordanian writers of wanting the Palestinians to continue to be the scapegoats of the conflict in the Middle East.

"The Arab psyche is wandering without a hero, a Palestinian hero," Habibi wrote. "The tragedy of Arab writers is that they found singing the praises of the Palestinian hero is easier for them than facing up to the real challenges."

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COLUMN

Japanese don't trust bureaucrats

TOKYO (R) — More than half the Japanese do not trust their nation's once-battered bureaucrats, saying they work for the interests of business or their ministries rather than the public, a survey published Sunday said. Thirty-two per cent of respondents to the survey — conducted last week by the Asahi Shimbun — said they thought bureaucrats worked on behalf of business, 15 per cent said they worked for politicians and 31 per cent said they worked for the interests of their ministries. Only 14 per cent said they worked for the people. Seven per cent said they did not trust bureaucrats at all, while 44 per cent did not trust them much. Just three per cent said they trusted them to a certain extent. Hailed in the past as the architects of Japan's post-war "economic miracle", bureaucrats have been under attack recently for allegedly hindering development of new businesses through over-zealous regulation. To questions about the image of bureaucrats, 28 per cent of respondents said they were inflexible, 22 per cent said they had a strong desire for promotion, 13 per cent called them irresponsible and eight per cent said they were self-important. Only 21 per cent assessed them positively, saying they were able, committed or "clean". Asahi questioned 3,000 people nationwide aged 20 or older, and got replies from 2,407, or 80 per cent.

Japanese children flood bullying hotline

TOKYO (R) — Seventy children called a Japanese "bullying hotline" on its first day of operation, complaining of physical intimidation and psychological torment at school, the Japan Times reported Sunday. The hotline was set up Saturday in Tokyo by a group of lawyers in response to an increase in bullying and harassment in schools, the newspaper said. A middle school second year student, about 14 years old, phoned and said her hair had started falling out because, when her teacher divided the class into groups, her group refused to accept her. "If you are with us the average intelligence of the group will be low," they told her. One boy in his first year of high school, about 16 years old, said he had paid a bully 50,000 yen (nearly \$500) under threat of violence. A girl in the sixth grade, with students about 12 years old, called from the northern island of Hokkaido to say that when she touched her desk, her classmates told her she had made it dirty. According to the Ministry of Education figures, there were over 23,000 incidents of bullying reported in Japan's state schools in the 1992 business year, up five per cent over the previous year, the paper said. Separately, a teacher in Matsumoto, central Japan, slapped 33 students in the third year of middle school — about 15 years old — about the face last week for being lazy, the daily Yomiuri reported Sunday. He injured 10 of them. Two boys suffered damage to their eardrums, another boy was cussed, and two boys and five girls received cuts and bruises. The teacher, 26 years old and male, later visited the homes of the two boys with the headmaster and apologised.

Hundreds of children marry in Indian state

NEW DELHI (R) — Several hundred children aged under seven were married in the northern Indian state of Rajasthan in defiance of a law banning child marriage, the United Nations of India (UNI) said. UNI said hundreds of boys and girls Friday walked in traditional Hindu style around the fire to become husband and wife. The agency said the marriages in the state were performed on the day of a local Hindu festival despite a campaign by the authorities to stop the age-old practice. UNI quoted official sources as saying that the authorities prevented several child marriages after a strict vigil by the police and the district administration. The authorities this year issued full-page advertisements in newspapers warning people against child marriages but it did not have much effect, UNI said. The Rajasthan High Court had asked the police to take preventive action to check the illegal practice.